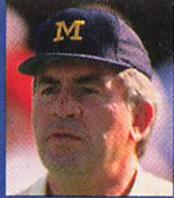
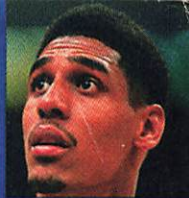


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REPORT**

**MICHIGAN COACH  
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**SYRACUSE'S TOP GUN  
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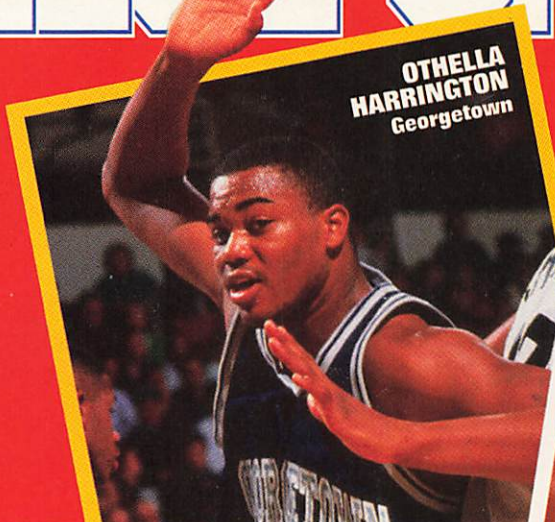
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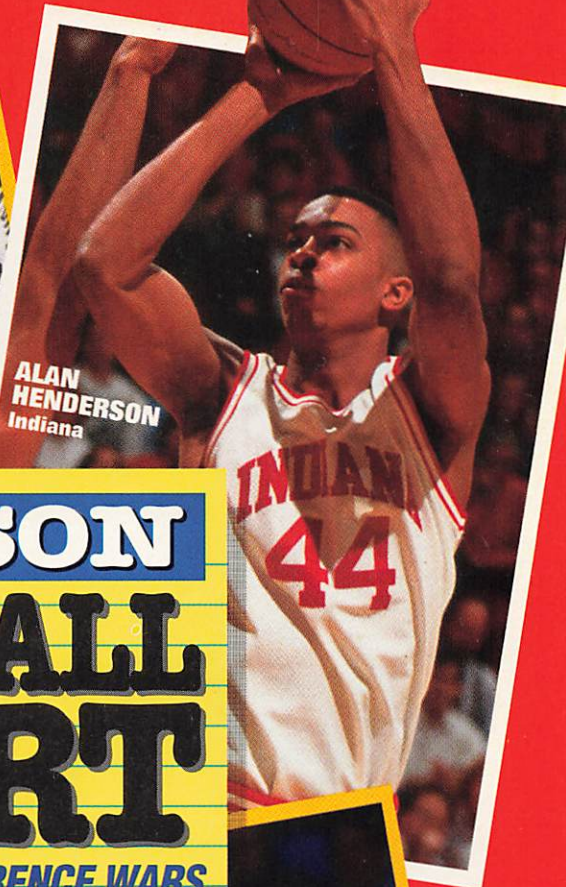
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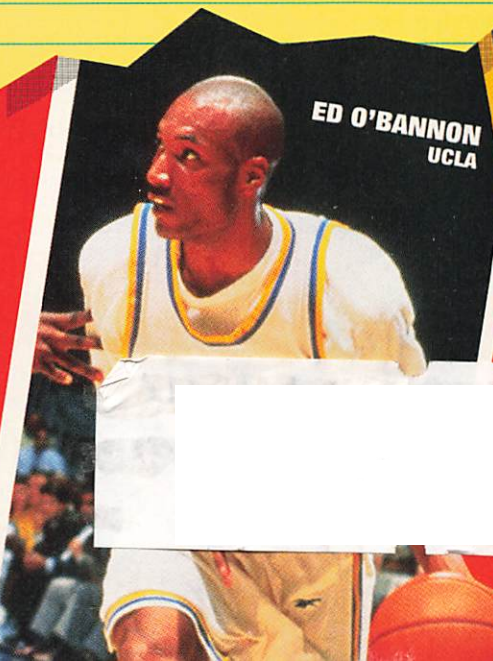
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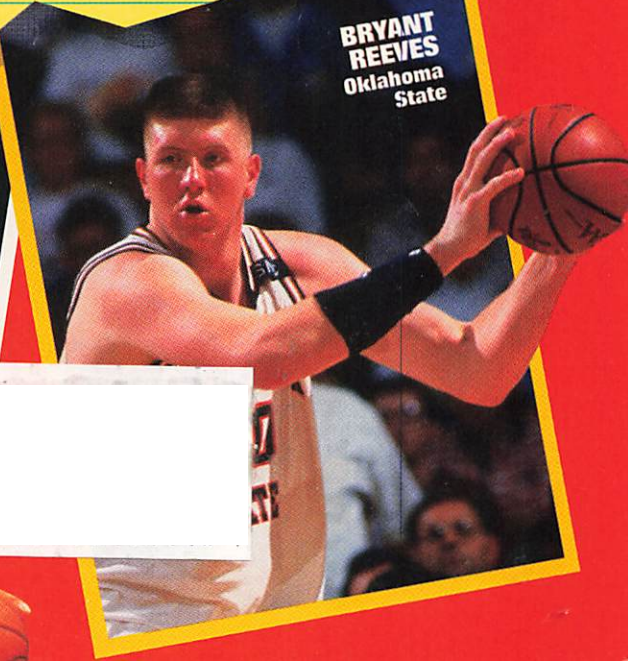
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## MIDSEASON BASKETBALL REPORT

*INSIDERS' GUIDE TO THE CONFERENCE WARS*

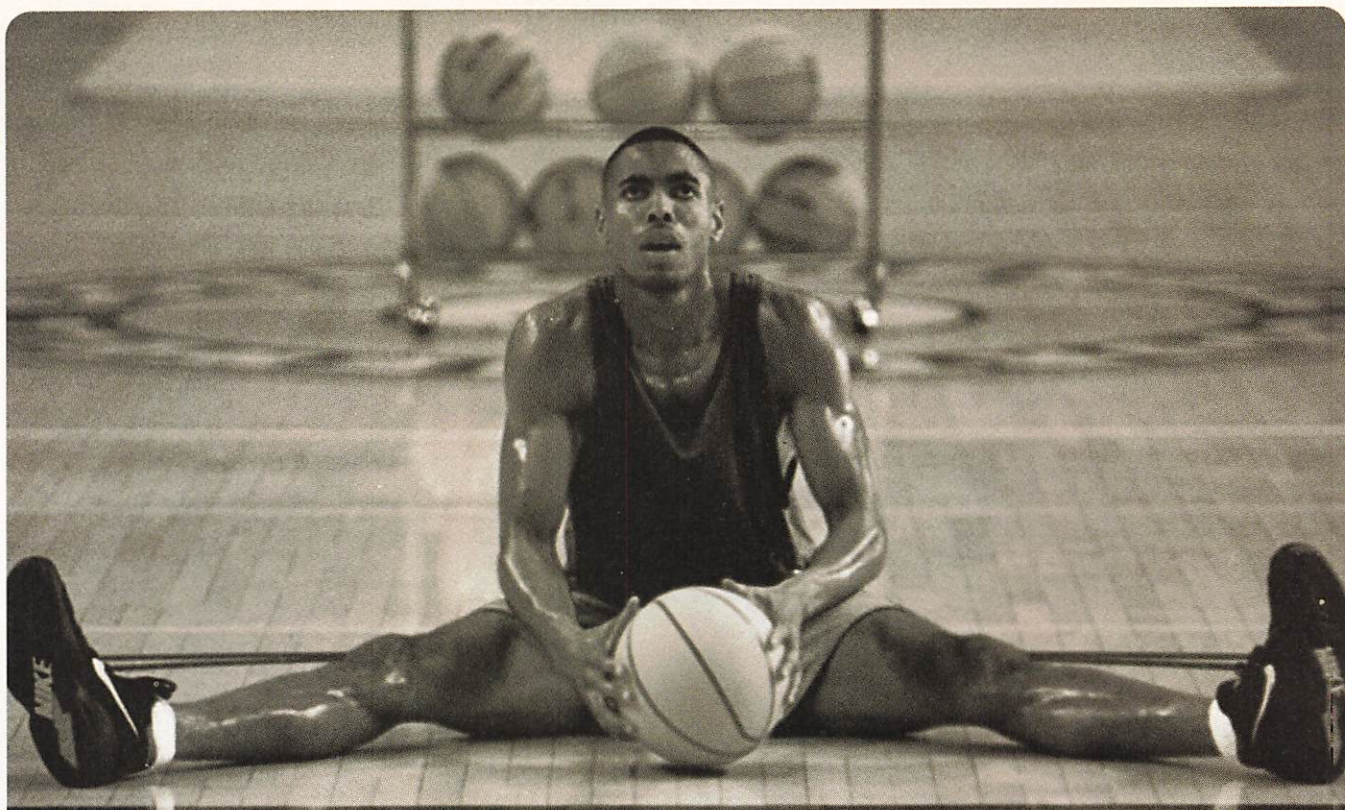


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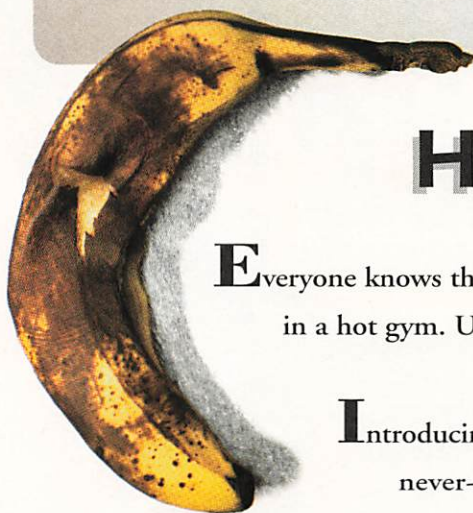
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# COLLEGE SPORTS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLLEGE SPORTS

## CS' Exclusive Midseason Basketball Report

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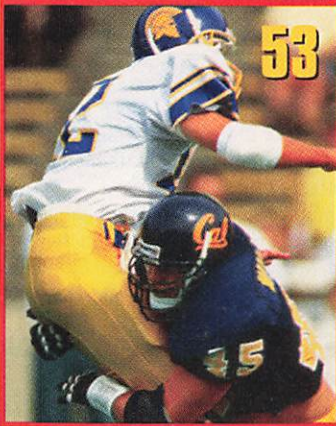
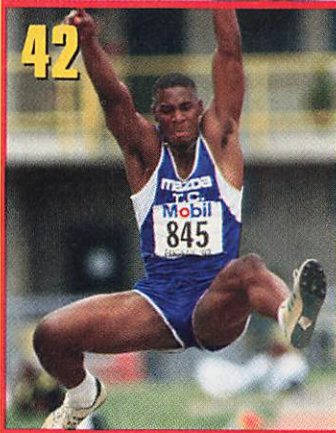
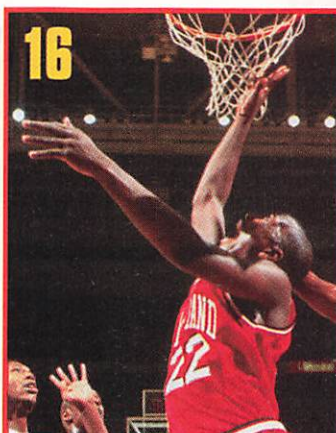
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Lawrence Moten (Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport);  
Othella Harrington (Bruce L. Schwartzman);  
Alan Henderson (Bob Rosato);  
Ed O'Bannon (Al Bello/Allsport);  
Bryant Reeves (Bob Rosato).



# FANS' FORUM

## LOW PAY? DITCH NBA

I enjoyed "Sacrificial Lambs" in the December 1994 issue, but I am writing because one subject was never mentioned: professional basketball in Europe. While Voshon Lenard and Charles Claxton might be pigeonholed into accepting the minimum salary in the NBA, they certainly could entertain offers from the European leagues after this college basketball season. In addition, they should have been allowed to look into their prospects in Europe with their attorney (not an agent) without losing their collegiate eligibility.

**Justin Kudler**  
Manchester, NH

## FOOTBALL FACTORIES

We received bundles of letters regarding our "Football Factories" story in the December issue. Needless to say, several schools and their stars missed the cut, and our readers were quick to point out some of the toughest calls:

In your lists of football factories, Pittsburgh was unjustly left out of two categories. Our top offensive linemen include 1980 Outland Trophy winner Mark May, Russ Grimm, Bill Fralic, Jimbo Covert, Mark Stepnoski, Jim Sweeney and Glenn Hyde. Our top defensive linemen include 1980 Lombardi Award winner and Heisman Trophy runner-

up Hugh Green, Marc Spindler, Sean Gilbert, Chris Doleman, Burt Grossman, Randy Holloway and Tony Siragusa.

**Matt Mills**  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

I enjoy your publication, but was more than surprised by the article "Football Factories." Your picks for Running Back schools did not include the most productive school in the nation at that position—Auburn.

Let's review the running backs in my memory and their accomplishments: Tucker Frederickson (All-Pro), William Andrews (All-Pro), Joe Cribbs (All-Pro), James Brooks (All-Pro), Lionel James (All-Pro), Bo Jackson (Heisman and All-Everything), Tommy Agee (pro career), George Peoples (pro career), James Bostic (pro career), James Joseph (pro career), Stacy Danley (pro career), Brent Fullwood (first-round pick) and Stephen Davis (current All-SEC, future pro).

**Frank Magazine**  
Peoria, Ill.

Your December 1994 issue upset me greatly. Your "Football Factories" story failed to mention Texas A&M. Texas A&M has had more All-Pro defensive backs than any other school in the country. You all seem to slight Texas A&M for the "popular" choices. Next time give credit where credit is due.

**Brad Rowe**  
College Station, Texas

I really enjoyed the article on the "Football Factories" in your December issue, but thought that Penn State was shortchanged in the Offensive Lineman category. While I would not place them first in this class, I certainly believe they deserve top five recognition. Notable pro linemen include Tom Rafferty, Keith Dorney, Mike Munchak, Sean Farrell, Irv Pankey, Steve Wisniewski, Brad Benson and Ron Heller.

**Rod Miller**  
Cherryville, Pa.

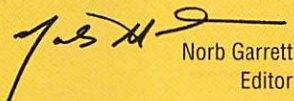
Address all letters to: Fans' Forum,  
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## FROM THE EDITOR

More basketball! More football! More Blue Chips! You wanted it, you got it. When you open this issue of COLLEGE SPORTS, you'll find expanded coverage of basketball and football broken down into the different regions of the country in our "Around the Rim" and "In the Huddle" sections. Each month, you'll get nuggets of information about schools, players and coaches that you'll only find in COLLEGE SPORTS.

We've also expanded our Blue Chippers section on the national prep recruiting picture with our Blue Chip Spotlight. Throughout the year, we'll focus on the nation's top prep talents—this month we feature Baltimore, Md., basketball standout Shawnta Rogers.

It's all part of our commitment to deliver the best of college sports to you, our readers.

  
Norb Garrett  
Editor

## COLLEGE SPORTS

Volume 4, Number 2

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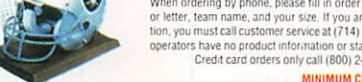
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| Clemson         | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Colorado        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| UConn           | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Duke            | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Florida         | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Florida St.     | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Georgetown      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Georgia         | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Georgia Tech    | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Hawaii          | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Illinois        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Indiana         | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Iowa            | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Kansas          | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Kentucky        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Louisiana       | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Louisiana St.   | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Maryland        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Miami           | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Michigan        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Michigan St.    | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Minnesota       | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Mississippi     | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Mississippi St. | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Missouri        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Nebraska        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| N Carolina      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| N Carolina St.  | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Notre Dame      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Ohio St.        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Oklahoma        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Oklahoma St.    | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Oregon          | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Penn St.        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Pittsburgh      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Purdue          | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| S Carolina      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| SMU             | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| St. John's      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Stanford        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Syracuse        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Tennessee       | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Texas           | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Texas A&M       | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Texas Tech      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| UCLA            | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| UNLV            | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| USC             | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Vanderbilt      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Virginia        | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Washington      | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Washington St.  | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| West Virginia   | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |
| Wisconsin       | AB | DE | GHI | JKL | MNO | PQR | STUV | WXYZ |      |



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# INSIDE REPORT

BY DAVID SEIGERMAN

## THE WRITE STUFF

You may have heard of writer's block, but no pen-wielding contemporary of Stonie Clark's is going to block that writer. Even offensive linemen throughout the Southwest Conference have their hands full when it comes to Clark, the University of Texas' 6-foot-2, 330-pound defensive tackle and resident scribe.



Texas' Stonie Clark: Bonecrusher/Poet.

Clark is imposing, to say the least, when he's on the field for the Longhorns. Away, from football, though, he is the prototypical gentle giant, a sensitive, insightful, engaging lug who speaks softly and carries a big pen.

"Writing has been a great form of entertainment for me the last few years," said Clark, the Longfellow of the Longhorns. "I like for people to read my work."

Clark's work is as diverse as his passion is genuine. More than anything, he enjoys writing poetry, reflecting on such subjects as his extended family—his parents, brother and sister, plus his father's 12 siblings and their children—his personal life and, of course, football. All sorts of ideas spring to his mind in all kinds of settings, whether he's walking across campus, schooling teammates at dominos in his dorm room or waiting to emerge from the Texas Stadium tunnel on gameday. Clark has taken to carrying a pad and pen with him wherever he goes to prevent any seed from escaping his memory.

"Usually, I just think about the first line and everything flows from there," said Clark, who counts T.S. Eliot, Allen Ginsberg and Langston Hughes as his favorite poets.

The flow began early in Clark's college career when an incident he chooses not to discuss left him in trouble with the law.

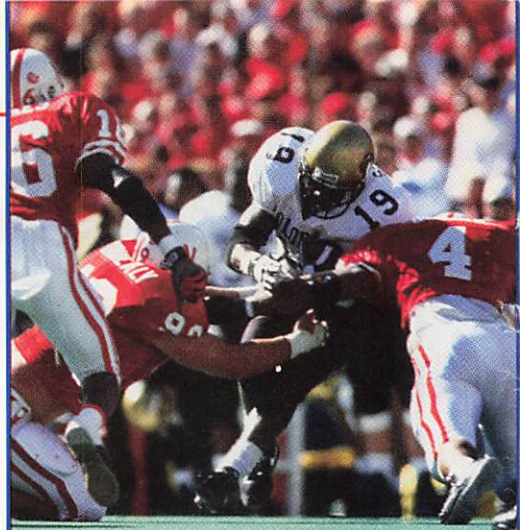
Clark didn't appreciate the way the media covered his story and decided to make sure it was told the right way. "I never got a chance to tell the public what really went on," Clark said. "The media took hold of the story and ran with it. That gave me the idea to write a book so people can know the truth about Stonie Clark."

Ever since, Clark has been tackling the task of compiling his autobiography with the same dedication he employs in stopping opposing ballcarriers. He's nearly through with his high school years, but plans to continue adding chapter after chapter until he's satisfied his story is told. Plus, there's the possibility of including a chapter on being selected in the NFL draft.

"I'm spilling my guts," Clark said of his yet untitled project. "I want people to know the type of things that go on with athletes at this level and young people in college."

## RUNNING BACK ON A ROLL

All season long, Colorado tailback Rashaan Salaam was a handful for opposing defenses. For nearly half a day last October, he provided a mouthful for diners in Denver.



Other than at The Market, Salaam was rarely sandwiched this season.

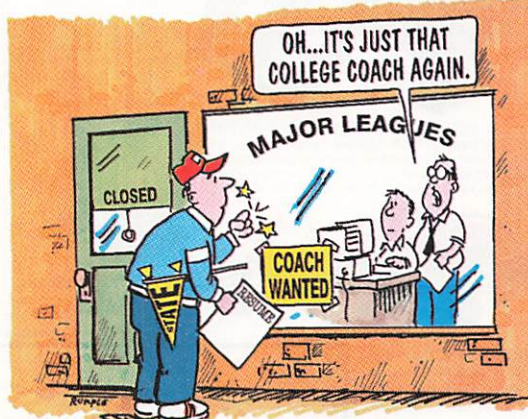
The Market, a delicatessen in downtown Denver, named a sandwich after the beloved Buffalo. Owner Gary Greenberg created the "Rashaan Salami Sandwich," which consisted of salami (of course) and American cheese (because Salaam was a shoo-in All-America candidate) on a bagel (because Salaam, as Greenberg put it, "is good at running through the hole.") The sandwich cost \$1.90 to match, as closely as possible, Salaam's jersey number (19); "I wasn't going to sell a sandwich for 19 cents; I'm not crazy," said Greenberg.

Salaam's immortality didn't even last until the lunch rush, though, as officials from the Colorado athletic department, fearing a possible NCAA violation, tabled the idea.

"They called me and told me we could

## COLLEGE SPORTS SURVEY

### College Baseball Coaches



Their sport is still considered the national pastime, but college baseball coaches rarely enjoy the national exposure and professional opportunities that their football and basketball counterparts do. We polled 88 Division I baseball coaches about their game. Here are the results:

**Are college coaches overlooked for major league coaching positions?**  
YES 81% NO 19%

**If yes, name three college coaches who could manage in the majors (Top 5).**

1. Skip Bertman, LSU 30
2. Jerry Kindall, Arizona 18

3. Cliff Gustafson, Texas 14
4. Ron Polk, Miss. St. 13
5. Mark Marquess, Stanford 9

**At what level of the minor leagues would your team be able to compete?**

- |                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Rookie Ball      | 26% |
| Class A          | 58% |
| Class AA         | 8%  |
| Class AAA        | 0%  |
| Couldn't Compete | 8%  |

**Should there be a schedule limit enforced for teams across the country?**

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| YES 92% | NO 8% |
|---------|-------|

**Which five teams have the best chances of winning the 1995 College World Series?**

1. LSU (19) 146
- 2t. Miami (10) 119
- 2t. Florida St. (8) 119
4. Oklahoma (9) 104
5. Texas (6) 74

Points awarded on a 5-4-3-2-1 basis. First place votes in parentheses.

ILLUSTRATION BY BARRY RUMBLE



cost the kid his scholarship," Greenberg said. "So, I told the guy from their athletic department that if he lost his scholarship, I'd let him work here a couple of shifts."

## SILENCE IS GOLDEN

The first thing you notice when you see Brett Collett between the goalposts for Augusta College (Ga.) is his size. You don't find many 6-4, 200-pound soccer goalkeepers.

Then, if you pay close attention, you notice something a little more subtle. You notice there isn't much sound emanating from the goalie box. In fact, there isn't any. It isn't that Collett can't speak. He just doesn't.

"Most of the time, my sweeper yells everything for me. The only word you'll ever hear from me is when I yell, 'Keeper!' when I'm coming out," Collett said. And even then it's tough for people to hear him.

Collett has a chronic condition wherein a benign tumor grows on his vocal chords. He's had 30 operations to have it removed since he was 2 years old—the doctors now use lasers for the procedure that required scissors in his younger days—the most recent of which took place last May when he was a sophomore. He will continue to need the surgeries about every other year until he stops growing, when the tumor is expected to stop growing, too.

Though not painful anymore, the growth still reduces his voice to a whisper. Sometimes it gets so large it impairs his breathing. His doctors cautioned him at an early age not to participate in a sport with exhaus-

with a league-record 16-save performance against Eckerd (Fla.), and he finished the year with a conference record 151 saves.

In other words, Collett's performances truly speak for themselves.

## TENDING TO BUSINESS

Bill Finney doesn't gush over numbers. In coaching the Marymount (Va.) women's basketball team to the last two Division III scoring titles, Finney has become well-acquainted with lofty totals.

But there is one particular statistic that has Finney excited about his newest player, Upsala (N.J.) transfer Corinne Carson. And it isn't just Carson's 22.7 points, 11 rebounds or 3.5 blocks per game that has caught Finney's attention, nor is it the 5-11 junior forward's reputed 36-inch vertical leap.

Rather, Finney is fixated on a single one of Carson's achievements: a goaltending call. "I've never even had a kid who could touch the rim," Finney said.

That's right, Carson impeded the progress of an opponent's shot *on the way down* toward the basket. Not exactly the kind of call you see every day in Division III women's basketball.

## AN EMMY AT EMORY

At the start of every new season, coaches are always imploring their athletes to focus their efforts on one specific goal: bringing home the trophy. Members of the track and cross-country teams at Emory University (Ga.), though, must have been a little surprised upon returning to campus to find their coach had done it without them.

No, John Curlin hadn't won any national championships while his runners were dispersed for the summer. But the Emory coach did have a new piece of fancy hardware adorning his office at the start of the fall semester: an Emmy Award.

"Everyone was coming in and looking at it, like 'Oh, this is an Emmy,'" said Curlin, who last summer won a Southern Regional Emmy for "Outstanding Achievement in Live Sports Programming" for his color commentary of the 1993 Peachtree Road Race on Atlanta's WAGA-TV.

Needless to say, Curlin's award has inspired a wide range of reaction. Georgia track coach John Mitchell needled Curlin at a cross-country meet, addressing him as "Mr. Television." And some of Curlin's athletes have inquired as to his Hollywood aspirations. "I tell them that they're stuck with me a little longer," Curlin said. "It was fun to get one of those little statues. But that's not my profession. It's more like my Walter Mitty thing."

## FAMILY TIES

Jenna and Rachel Tukey have been and always will be identical twin sisters. There was one occasion, however, when the current Air Force freshmen took their

## PYRAMID POWER

Back in the old days—the *really* old days—pyramids were constructed exclusively as tombs for the Pharaohs of Egypt. These days, pyramids are popping up across the country like shopping malls. All you need is a Division I basketball team, a creative marketing plan and several million dollars and you, too, can build a pyramid. First, Memphis State opened its "Tomb of Doom" on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1991. Now, nestled between four freeways just three miles from the Pacific Ocean, Long Beach State has opened one of its own. Throw in the Luxor Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas and the U.S. can now match the Great Pyramids of Egypt structure-for-structure. Here is a comparison of college basketball's most unique arenas:



**Name:** Great American Pyramid.  
**Location:** Memphis, Tenn.  
**Primary Uses:** University of Memphis basketball, concerts.  
**Cost to Build:** \$65.5 million.  
**Opening Night:** Nov. 29, 1991.  
**Height at Peak:** 321 feet.  
**Size at Base:** 247,500 square feet.  
**Seating Capacity:** 20,142.  
**Parking:** 1,928 outdoor spaces.  
**Ingredients:** Located on approximately 30 acres, it contains 6.9 acres of stainless steel. Each corner support is 371 feet long and weighs 200 tons. Twenty-eight corner trusses were laid (1,955 tons of steel). The exterior is composed of 8,384 stainless steel panels.



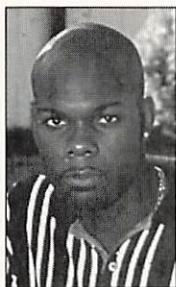
**Name:** The Pyramid.  
**Location:** Long Beach, Calif.  
**Primary Uses:** Long Beach State men's and women's basketball and volleyball, educational conference center, fitness center.  
**Cost to Build:** \$22 million.  
**Opening Night:** Nov. 30, 1994.  
**Height at Peak:** 178 feet.  
**Size at Base:** 119,025 square feet.  
**Seating Capacity:** 5,000.  
**Parking:** 3,000-car garage.  
**Ingredients:** Twenty-six miles worth of steel tubing (18,000 tubes) are connected by 160,000 three-quarter-inch bolts. The exterior is coated with blue Kynar, a polyvinyl flouride.

Augusta goalie Brett Collett lets his play do the talking.

tive running. Collett tried football, baseball and basketball through high school, but finally settled exclusively on soccer, which he had played since he was 5. With his limitations, goaltender became his position first of necessity, then of choice. "I really enjoy playing the position now," Collett said.

He's also thriving at the position, in spite of his inability to communicate with his teammates. Collett was the only netminder in the Division II Peach Belt Athletic Conference to play every minute of every game this season. He opened his junior season





## QUOTE of the MONTH

**'You would think something like this would happen to an old person. To have a heart attack at age 22. . . . I figured I'd wake up and it would just be a nightmare.'**

—Clemson's Devin Gray

aliqueness to an eerie extreme.

The Tukeys were competing in the mile freestyle at the junior nationals meet in Minneapolis in mid-'93. Rachel's qualifying time missed the cut for the top eight so she swam in the morning heat. Jenna would swim the mile in the evening session.

Rachel finished in 17:20.04. Several hours later, with Rachel counting her laps, Jenna completed her race in 17:20.04. Exactly the same time. To the hundredth of a second. In separate heats. Over the course of a mile.

"I kept looking up at her splits, and I noticed she was running pretty close to my time," Rachel said. "When she finished, I looked up and saw 17:20.04 and I started going crazy. I threw down the lap counter."

"No one there could believe it. I couldn't believe it. I said, 'This is just too weird.'"

Not surprisingly, Jenna had an identical reaction. "I was real exhausted and looked up to see my time," Jenna said. "I started thinking about what place I got and thinking of the people ahead of me when it hit me: 'Oh my God. [Rachel] had the exact same time as me.'"

The Tukeys ended up tied for seventh. They even got to stand on the same block during the awards ceremony. "We're so used to being lumped together," Rachel said. "It was kind of neat that, for once, we really were exactly equal."

Now that they're at Air Force, the

Tukey twins share something else. They both hope to help the Falcons break the five-year stranglehold Oakland (Mich.) has on the Division II title.

## COLLEGE SPORTS BOOK REVIEW

### *Seminole Seasons*

By Burt Reynolds and Bruce Chadwick (157 pages, Taylor Publishing, \$10.95).

Tired of all those kiss-and-tell sports books, the ones without conscience that take the reader inside the lockerrooms and often-sordid personal lives of prominent athletes? Don't worry, you won't find any of that in *Seminole Seasons*.

Looking, perhaps, for some insight into the Florida State Seminoles' stigma-squashing national championship of 1993? Sorry, there's not too much of that in here, either.

What you will find is a combination of game highlights, select tidbits from the program's football history and plenty of personal anecdotes, all from "FSU's biggest fan." You want to know about Burt Reynolds and his allegiance to Florida State football? You've got it.

The warnings signs are there from the

## COLLEGE SPORTS LIST

Nearly half (49.4 percent) of the coaches of women's sports at all NCAA divisions are female, an increase of 2.1 percent since 1990. Here is a list of the 15 championship women's sports and the percentage of female coaches in each:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Field Hockey    | 97% |
| Lacrosse        | 93% |
| Volleyball      | 70% |
| Softball        | 67% |
| Basketball      | 65% |
| Tennis          | 48% |
| Golf            | 47% |
| Gymnastics      | 41% |
| Soccer          | 33% |
| Swimming/Diving | 28% |
| Fencing         | 26% |
| Cross Country   | 21% |
| Track           | 21% |
| Skiing          | 14% |
| Rifle           | 7%  |

Source: Vivian Acosta, Linda Carpenter, Brooklyn College.

start. The book's cover bears a blurred picture of Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward releasing a pass during FSU's title-clinching Orange Bowl victory over Nebraska. A sharp photograph of Burt and coach Bobby Bowden is inserted at center. From there, it isn't a mystery what the focus of the book will be.

What should be a potent marketing combination—a Hollywood high-profile former running back and a nationally recognized program fresh off its first football title—is undermined by frequent typos, poor grammar and a conversational tone that makes most of the book read like the transcript of a Barbara Walters interview. Not that publishing a book that basically features Reynolds talking about himself is a bad idea; *Seminole Seasons* does manage several genuinely funny stories.

But Reynolds' football experience—as a player and as an actor in *Semi-Tough*, *The Longest Yard* or even his hit TV show, *Evening Shade*—doesn't qualify him to write about football. The game-by-game chronology of the 1993 season that comprises the first third of the book could easily have been put out by the FSU sports information staff. Actually, FSU did publish a similar account, minus the gushing: its 1994 media guide.

The media guide, however, doesn't contain the intertwined tales of Reynolds' personal and FSU's football pasts. But there isn't enough of the former to make *Seminole Seasons* an autobiography and it lacks too much of the latter to keep the book from paying credible tribute to the program's history.

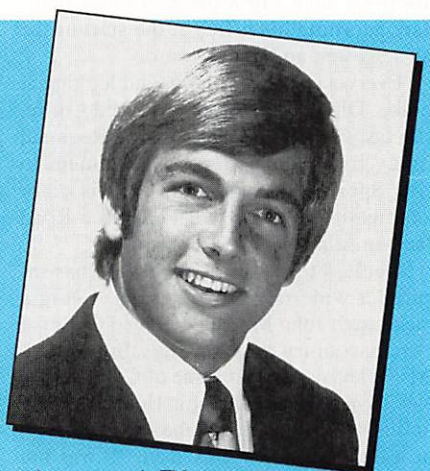
The bottom-line reason for its release is that Florida State won a national championship and Burt Reynolds once went there. As a result, *Seminole Seasons* is the journalistic equivalent of an ambulance-chasing lawyer. **CS**

## COLLEGE SPORTS Yearbook

### MARK HARMON UCLA, Class of 1974

**AT UCLA:** The son of legendary Michigan running back Tommy Harmon, the 1940 Heisman Trophy winner, Harmon played two years at quarterback for the Bruins. In his junior and senior seasons, Harmon completed 43-of-100 passes for 845 yards and nine touchdowns. He also rushed for 975 yards and 14 TDs. The Bruins were a combined 17-5 in the "Mark Harmon Era."

**AFTER UCLA:** An accomplished actor, Harmon's resumé includes numerous film and television credits. Harmon has held



roles on such TV series as *St. Elsewhere*, *Moonlighting* and, most recently, *Reasonable Doubts*, and he has appeared in more than a dozen television Movies of the Week. Harmon's feature films include *Summer School*, *The Presidio*, *Stealing Home*, *Wyatt Earp* and 1994's *Glenoryk*.



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# VIDEO GAME SHOWCASE

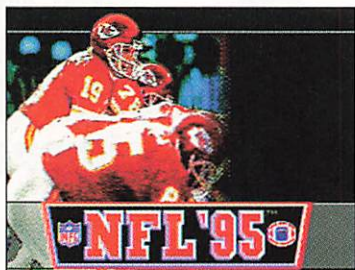
By Scott MacDougal

## NFL '95

Sega Sports  
Sega Genesis  
For 4 players

Sega Sports has answered EA Sports' Madden '95 with this terrific football video game. Madden and NFL '95 will battle to the wire for year-end video Super Bowl honors.

For stats, NFL '95 beats any other football game available. You play with real teams and real players from the '92-'94 seasons, plus nine all-star squads. Stats are constantly updated as you play, so you can make the correct substitutions and acquire the necessary free agents. Games are played using the familiar behind-the-QB view, but a new zoom-cam effect opens up the field for great long-range passing. The game play is realistic, with gritty ballcarriers fighting for every extra yard. You don't get a Madden-like commentator, but the trash-talking and thumping collisions convey the right atmosphere for the hard-hitting action. Finally, using the Team Player adapter, four players can battle simultaneously, guaranteeing some rowdy good times.



## ESPN Speedworld

Sony Imagesoft  
Sega Genesis & Super Nintendo  
For 1 or 2 players

Of all the ESPN sports games out this season, Speedworld should give you the best mileage. Its combination of high-octane action and fairly sophisticated strategy will challenge rookies and veterans alike.

Like the recent ESPN hockey, football and baseball games, Speedworld recreates the network's popular TV show. You'll recognize the stock-car races and Dr. Jerry Punch's commentary straight from the ESPN races. The game is set on 15 rural tracks from the Carolinas to California—since most of the tracks are basic ovals, you'll have to customize your car carefully to get an edge on the competition.

The cars are large, they spin out if you punch it around a corner, and the backgrounds are colorfully detailed. On-screen maps and gauges give you the info you need without cluttering up the screen.



## FIFA International Soccer '95

EA Sports  
Sega Genesis & Super Nintendo  
For 4 players

Chalk up another big win for EA Sports. They've taken an already-great soccer game and made it the best soccer game ever. This one shoots... and scores! The latest FIFA has everything that made last year's a champion: the angled from-the-corner graphics, large players that move quickly and cleanly, realistic sounds and superior controls that enable you to pull off bicycle kicks and headers into the goal like a pro.

You play in either domestic tournaments, a World Cup-style championship, playoffs or exhibitions. FIFA's World Tournament uses divisional groupings based on the performances of the real teams from last summer's World Cup. Teams are rated in nine categories, ranging from team speed to tackling abilities. You can use EA's 4-Way Play adapter to share the action among four players. Soccer games don't get any better, at least not until the awesome 3DO version gets its nationwide release.



## PGA Tour III

Electronic Arts  
Sega Genesis  
For 4 players

EA Sports' PGA Tour Golf series has usually been the standard against which other golf games have been measured. This third installment is the best yet, with gorgeous graphics and dazzling details.

PGA Tour III sends you down eight different courses with Tom Kite and other top pros. You compete in tournaments, skins games, matchplay, shoot-outs and practice rounds, with the ability to choose everything from your club to your view of the fairway. The best addition to the PGA Tour tradition is the new Ball Lie window, which gives you a closeup of the ball on the grass. This helps you make club selections and helps you execute tricky shots. Visually, this game is dramatic, with digitized graphics creating backgrounds suitable for framing. Only the too-mellow music seems out of place, especially when the four-player competition gets intense.





# MONSTER OF THE MAT

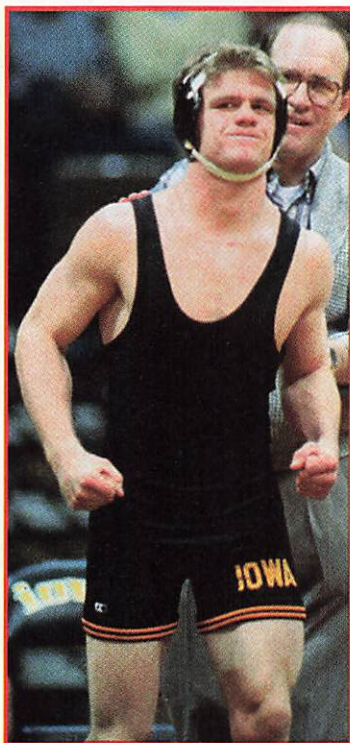
**D**own 8-3 late in the first period of his inaugural NCAA championship bout, things didn't look too good for the University of Iowa's latest wrestling star. But Lincoln McIlravy, then an 18-year-old only a year removed from his fifth state high school championship (wrestlers can compete on the varsity in eighth grade in South Dakota), showed wrestling fans across the country something special about himself. McIlravy battled back, scoring takedown after takedown on Fresno State's Gerry Abas to pull out a 16-15 victory. The fourth and decisive takedown came with only four seconds left on the clock.

That match, his father said, served as a pinpoint example of what makes McIlravy, now a 20-year-old, 5-foot-8, 150-pound junior, so special.

"I think the word 'will' probably is the key there," Kenneth McIlravy said. "He has a strong will . . . a unique toughness about him. He's very, very mentally tough." Or, as McIlravy's mother, Linda, said, "He doesn't accept second place very easily. It was never good enough."

Dan Gable, who has coached Iowa to 11 national team titles in 17 years, said McIlravy isn't necessarily unique in his drive for success. A two-time NCAA champ who won an Olympic gold medal in 1972, Gable said, "I think in most successful athletes, that's a common trait. Maybe it's the degree of how bad he hates to lose."

McIlravy, who sailed through a 27-0 sophomore season in the 150-pound class en route to his second NCAA title and now has a chance to become only the second collegiate wrestler to win four national crowns, agrees with his coach. "It's a combination of things," he said. "When you have the will to win, for one thing, you prepare more. When you prepare more, you look at yourself and say you're



## Iowa's LINCOLN McILRAVY Is Looking For His Third Wrestling Crown in as Many Years

By J.R. OGDEN

not going to accept losing because of the price you paid. So it's kind of a circle."

The youngest of four children born to cattle ranchers in Philip, S.D., McIlravy learned his work ethic from his parents. "My mom and dad are both the same way," he said. "If they start a job, they finish it and they finish it right. It's one thing I've really learned a lot from my parents; more so when I got older I noticed that. I don't remember them ever preaching that to me."

That's why Gable's program at Iowa fit McIlravy's bill so well. Nobody, McIlravy said, works harder or smarter than Gable's Hawkeyes. "We do things right," he said. "Coach Gable's a genius, it's that simple." But Gable isn't taking all the credit for McIlravy's success.

"He was the most successful high schooler I've had walk into my room and be able to compete with guys that are national- and world-caliber," said Gable, who has coached 34 national champion wrestlers and numerous Olympic medalists. "And it's not just that he could go

with them, but he could stay with them the whole practice."

Gable said the strength and flexibility of McIlravy's hips are a key to his outstanding technique.

"I've never had a wrestler that can get you so disoriented," Gable said. "When he starts popping and moving, I don't think his opponents know where he's at. The [opponent] doesn't know which way to move; he's guessing and half the time he's making the wrong move and ends up falling on his head."

But there's more to McIlravy than wrestling. An outstanding student, McIlravy eloped last summer and married his high school sweetheart, Lisa. His family and religion are important to him.

Because of McIlravy's interests and beliefs, Gable wonders how long his standout will stay in the sport. So, Gable is pushing him toward the 1996 Summer Olympics. If the Iowa team can afford to miss him, McIlravy will sit out the 1995-'96 season as a redshirt to prepare for the Games in Atlanta, Gable said.

Is an Olympic gold in McIlravy's future? Gable said that's up to McIlravy. "When he knows he wants to put it together, he's got a great chance to put it together," Gable said.

And that wouldn't surprise his parents. "Nothing Lincoln does surprises me," said Linda. "He usually achieves what he sets his mind to."

That is the ultimate goal, said McIlravy, who doesn't dwell much on the notion of being a two-time, three-time or even four-time national champ.

"I like the challenge of getting better all the time," he said. "I don't think about being a national champion as much as I do about improving and constantly getting better and ultimately being a world or Olympic champion." **CS**

J.R. Ogden is a staff writer for the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette.



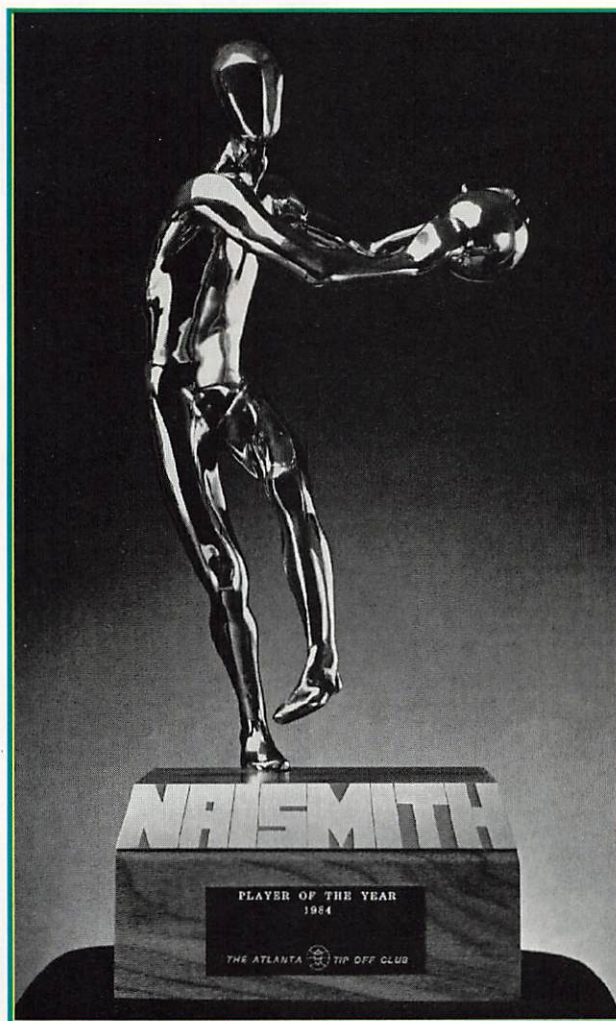
# The History of the BAN/NAISMITH AWARDS

**T**he BAN/Naismith Awards program honors the outstanding U.S. collegiate basketball players of the year. Founded 26 years ago by the Atlanta Tipoff Club, an organization dedicated to recognizing the achievements of student-athletes in basketball, the awards are in recognition of Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of the game of basketball.

"We are extremely proud that the Naismith Awards have been able to honor the great collegiate basketball players for the past 25 years," said Jackie Bradford, Director of the Atlanta Tipoff Club. "Our list of winners reads like a 'Who's Who' of college basketball."

The award's first recipient (in 1969) was UCLA's Lew Alcindor, who later changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. UCLA's Bill Walton (1972-'74) and Virginia's Ralph Sampson (1981-'83) are the only three-time male winners of the award. Others who have been honored include North Carolina's Michael Jordan, Georgetown's Patrick Ewing, Duke's Christian Laettner and Indiana State's Larry Bird.

In recent years, the awards program has expanded to honor a broader range of people who have contributed to the game of basketball. The BAN/Naismith Outstanding Contribution Award honors an individual for his/her work supporting the game. Veteran sportscaster Curt Gowdy was the first to receive the award in 1992, and in the late 1980's the Atlanta Tipoff Club added the College Coach of the Year, Prep (High School) Player of the Year and Officials of the Year awards to its list.



In 1983, the Awards expanded to recognize women's basketball. Old Dominion's Anne Donovan was the first female college basketball player to be honored with the award, which has also named such stars as USC's Cheryl Miller (the only three-time women's winner, 1984-'86) and Texas Tech's Sheryl Swoopes.

The BAN/Naismith Awards winners will be announced on CBS Sports television Sunday, March 26 at 12:30 p.m. ET. Winners are selected by a committee comprised of all NCAA Division I coaches, media members, the Atlanta Tipoff Club's National Advisory Board, commissioners of all NCAA Division I conferences and the former Naismith recipients. In all, nearly 1,100 voters cast ballots for the men's and women's collegiate players of the year, while advisory panels select the other awards.

Presentation of the awards are conducted annually at the BAN/Naismith Awards Banquet in Atlanta in April. *NEXT MONTH: This Year's Candidates*

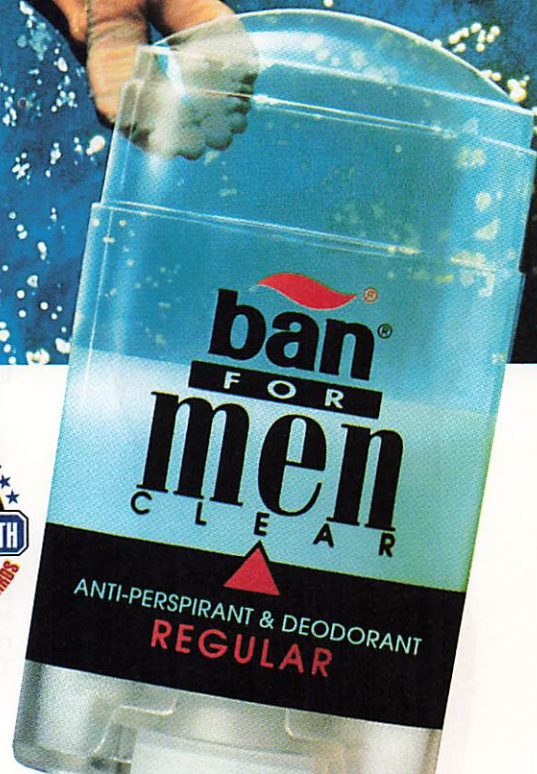


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# AROUND THE RIM

## The Unexpected Arrival of Haley's Commentary

### MIDWEST

Can intense MISSOURI coach Norm Stewart be charmed while trying to adjust to animated brothers Sammie and Simeon Haley, the 7-foot twins who joined the Tigers after starring in junior college for Connors State (Okla.)?

Stewart got a peek of the twin-peak personalities at an early practice scrimmage when one of them started broadcasting while playing. "I'm standing there," Stewart said, "and I hear, 'The ball's out to the guard. The guard throws it down to the 4. I've got this guy pinned. And, oh, he's going to throw it in here. I got him, I got him—he fouls him, and he's got one.'"

**Hey Norm, Sammie's the lefty.**

"So after practice, I go over—and I think I was talking to Simeon—and I said, 'We don't need broadcasters. We need players.'"

Stewart said that actual broadcasters are fortunate that the wiry twins wear jerseys with uniform numbers on them.

"When they don't have those numbers on them, I have no idea who I'm talking to,"

Stewart said. "So you get that situation once in a

while, I might be talking to Sam

thinking I'm talking to Simeon. And

I'm telling him how good he's doing, and he's just

made four mistakes. And he's wondering if I'm sane."

Stewart, a renowned referee baiter, is also intrigued by the possibility of toying with

officials. "One's left-handed [Sammie], that's the only problem," Stewart said.

"But if one of them has four fouls and he's having a heck of a game in

the first half, you might change the jerseys at halftime and then just tell everybody that he just became proficient with the other hand."

**WELL, WADDELL YOU KNOW?**  
Life after Big Dog—last season's unanimous national Player of the Year Glenn Robinson—was going to be difficult enough for PURDUE. But it appeared as if it was going to be the dog days of winter for the Boilermakers after dependable guard Matt Waddell incurred what looked like a season-ending injury to his right knee last fall in a pickup game.

### **WELL, WADDELL YOU KNOW?**

Miraculously, a ligament transplant kept Waddell on Purdue's roster. His unexpected return could add to the Boilermakers' tradition of surpassing expectations in coach Gene Keady's 15 seasons at their helm. —Mike Douchant

**SOUTHEAST**  
**WALKER RACES**  
KENTUCKY and LOUISVILLE started competing on the football field this past season. Their regular-season basketball rivalry, however, has roared since 1983. They fight over column inches in local

newspapers and for air time on WHAS, a 50,000-watt clear channel AM station based in Louisville.

So, it is only fitting that the two in-state rivals tip off the 1994-'95 season with competing Walkers, both of whom were high school All Americans. For Louisville, that's Samaki Walker, a 6-foot-9 freshman from Columbus, Ohio. For Kentucky, it's Antoine Walker, a 6-8 freshman from Chicago.

Samaki, a high school All America, will play center for Denny Crum. Antoine, another high school All America, will play forward for Rick Pitino.

"Antoine will go through some of the ups and downs that Rodrick Rhodes had as a freshman," Pitino said, "but he'll also have some of the great games that Rod had as well. At 6-8, he's one of the best passers I've ever recruited." —Rick Bozich

### WEST

#### **TATTOO YOU?**

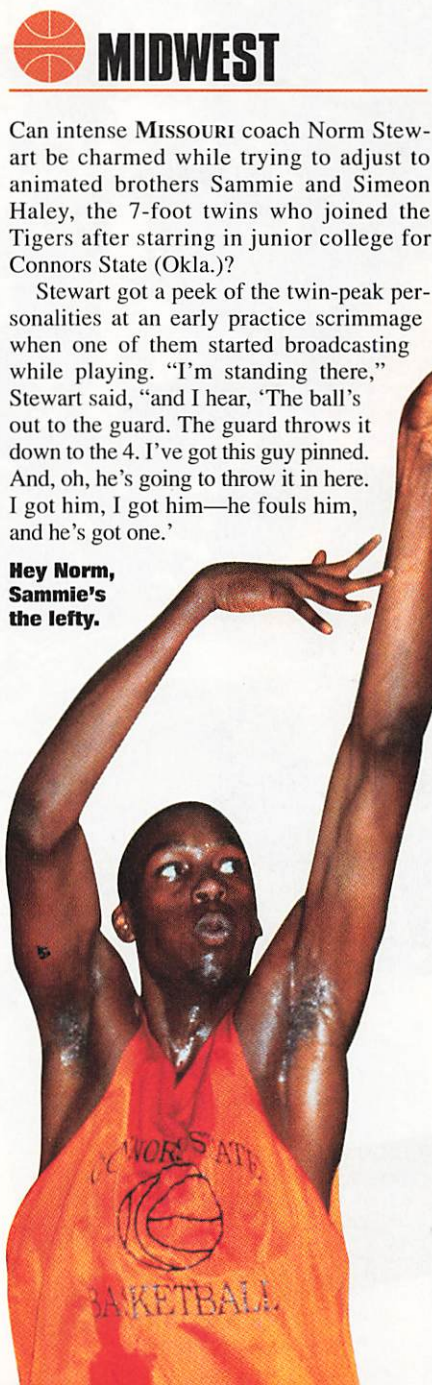
Once ARIZONA junior center Joseph Blair's career ends, he might consider seeking employment as a tattoo parlor advertisement. Blair has a basketball hoop tattooed on his chest, the name "Baby Blair" tattooed on his arm and the initials "JB" tattooed on his stomach. "They said the stomach was the most painful place to get one, other than the genitals," Blair said, "and I wasn't going to get one down there."

His fourth tattoo—a bull under the family name, "Juordyan"—is on his left bicep. "The bull describes the way I play," said the

### **ACE IN THE HOLE**

EVANSVILLE, competing in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference last season, averaged 10,230 fans per home date, or 1,500 more than any member did in the Aces' new league—the Missouri Valley.

Evansville, which has won more than 20 games each of the previous three years, was picked to finish fourth in the MVC despite returning four of the top five scorers from an NIT participant. "That doesn't sound very right to me," Aces coach Jim Crews said. "We don't like fourth place." —M.D.

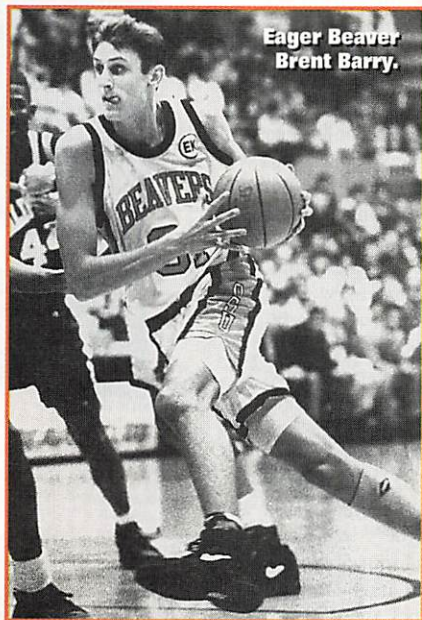




6-9, 260-pound center. "My game is not based on finesse."

What does Blair's mom, Judith, think of the tattoos? "She saw them and didn't say much," he said. "Then a week later, she asked when they were going to rub off."

Blair influenced Damon Stoudamire and Khalid Reeves to get tattoos. So far, Arizona coach Lute Olson has not gone under the needle. "There aren't really any that fit Coach Olson," Blair said, "unless you could tattoo a suit on him."



Eager Beaver  
Brent Barry.

## RAZZ BARRY

Barry brother No. 3, Brent, is a senior at OREGON STATE. He's an All-Pac-10 candidate trying to help OSU improve on its 6-21 record of a year ago.

A 6-6 guard/forward, Barry spent part of the summer in Atlanta with brothers Jon (Milwaukee Bucks) and Drew (Georgia Tech). His oldest brother, Scooter, is playing for Yakima (Wash.) of the CBA.

Brent said he doesn't talk to his famous father, Rick, very often, but the brothers keep in touch regularly. "There's a little ribbing that goes on when things aren't going well," Brent said.

Any guesses as to who got the most ribbing last year? —Jon Wilner



## MOUNTAIN FROM A SMALL HILL

College basketball fans remember from last season that Dametri Hill was the 6-7, 286-pound power forward (with the emphasis on *power*) who led FLORIDA to its first appearance in the NCAA Final Four.

What they might not remember is that Hill almost didn't have a sophomore season to celebrate. The reason was Hill's weight had soared to 350 pounds during his freshman season. Gators coach Lon Kruger rewarded him with only 60 minutes of playing time all season. Perturbed, Hill almost transferred. "Coach Kruger called me in and told me I was wasting my talent," Hill said. "I knew what he was saying, but it was very frustrating."

Kruger assigned a professional dietitian, Katherine Parker, to Hill. She changed his lunch and dinner menus to pasta, potatoes and fruits. Hill shed 64 pounds, improved his leg press from 450 to 780, bumped his scoring average from 1.1 to 12.7 and helped carry the Gators to Charlotte last April. —R.B.



## NORTHEAST

### NEW KIDS IN TOWN

Guards Felipe Lopez of St. John's and Allen Iverson of GEORGETOWN—the two best freshman prospects in the country—make their debut in the rejuvenated Big East this season. They are the nucleus of the strongest class to enter this league since 1982, when Patrick Ewing, Chris Mullin and Ed Pinckney turned Georgetown, St. John's and Villanova, respectively, into national powers.

The 6-5 Lopez, who was the MVP of both the McDonald's All-America Game and the Magic Johnson Classic last spring, is the second most influential prospect to sign with the Johnnies in the modern era, ranking behind only Mullin, the former Olympian and All America from Brooklyn who led his school to the NCAA Final Four in 1985. Lopez, a native of the Dominican Republic who played for Brother Rice in the Bronx, is expected to introduce St. John's basketball to an entirely new fan base, the Hispanic community.

As for Iverson, the 6-0 guard from Hampton, Va., was the best player at the Nike camp the summer after his junior year before spending four months in a Virginia prison for his role in a bowling alley brawl. He was granted conditional clemency by then-Gov. Douglas Wilder in December of '93, and enrolled in private school in January '94 to continue his education.

Here's how we feel Iverson ranks among the other the blue-chip prospects John Thompson has signed over the years:

**1. Patrick Ewing, 1981.** This towering center, who led the Hoyas to three Final Fours, established Thompson as a major force on the national recruiting front.

**2. Al Dutch, 1974.** He might not rank among Georgetown's all-time greats, but the 6-8 forward's signing opened the door for the Hoyas to effectively recruit D.C. in the late '70s

when they were establishing the program.

**3. Allen Iverson, 1994.** He could be the talent who brings Thompson back to national prominence.

**4. Alonzo Mourning, 1988.** He was the third of four national prep Players of the Year to sign with the Hoyas and helped establish Thompson as a magnet for great post players.

**5. Reggie Williams, 1983.** He came from Baltimore Dunbar, Bob Wade's national prep power, became a star as a freshman and a national Player of the Year candidate as a senior when Reggie and the Miracles made it to the NCAA Final Eight.

### NO PLACE LIKE HOME

SYRACUSE has always been able to reach out into the global community for recruits. The Orangemen signed Leo Rautins from Canada, Rony Seikaly from Greece, Marius Janulis from Lithuania and, now, 7-0 center Elvir Ovcina from Sycamore, Ill. High School and, originally, Bosnia, has verbally committed. Ovcina and seven other Bosnian Junior Olympic players left their war-torn country last year and emigrated to the U.S. Their journey from Sarajevo to Turkey to Chicago was aided by members of the Syracuse Rotary International. One of the club's members had a relative coaching the youth team in Bosnia.

Ovcina knew little English when he arrived, but he made a rapid transition to American basketball, averaging 16.5 points and 7.5 rebounds the last 12 games of the year as a junior.

A good perimeter shooter who still needs to add bulk for the Big East wars, Ovcina chose Syracuse over Illinois, Northwestern and Wisconsin after his campus visit for Midnight Madness. Upon his return, he told his American host family that he liked the terrain because it reminded him of his homeland and the fact that Syracuse introduced him to three students from Bosnia, including swimmer Miraslav Vecetic. —Dick Weiss CS



# OFF TO THE RACES

**The Mad Dash to the Finish Line Begins as Conference Play Gets Underway**

By **MICHAEL BRADLEY**

**C**ollege basketball addicts have spent the last six weeks as voyeurs of sorts, snooping from their seats in arenas and peering into their TV sets while coaches have conducted human behavior experiments. They've watched as coaches dabble with chemistry, develop a rotation and determine an identity. It's for these reasons, even more than wins and losses, that early non-conference matchups have any significance in the greater scheme of the hoop world.

Sure, there were some intriguing matchups in the early-going. And, a fast start can often yield the wins necessary for a bubble team to land an invitation to the NCAA Tournament. But basketball teams in November and December are largely works-in-progress with completion dates set for the beginning of major-conference play.

Now that the tinkering and testing has been completed, it's time for the season's second act—the league season—to begin. By late February, the non-conference world, save for a few made-for-TV battles, will be long forgotten as teams vie for regular-season championships and favorable seedings in postseason tournaments. Now's the time for major-conference teams to bear down as the conference races heat up:

**ATLANTIC COAST:** America's toughest conference should produce college basketball's most exciting race for the regular season championship, with North Carolina, Duke, Maryland and Virginia all vying for the top seed at the postseason confab in Charlotte.

"You have to win the games you're supposed to win," Maryland coach Gary Williams said. "It's going to be tough to get into the NCAA Tournament from this league."



**Georgetown hopes for a high-flying start in the Big East.**

Expect Carolina to break out quickly, thanks to favorable scheduling. Four of the Tar Heels' first six ACC games are at home, where they are 15-1 against league competition the last two seasons. The road hasn't been particularly friendly to Dean Smith's squad; North Carolina is 13-25 in road conference games the last five years, but the two early trips this season are to second-division definites Clemson and North Carolina State.

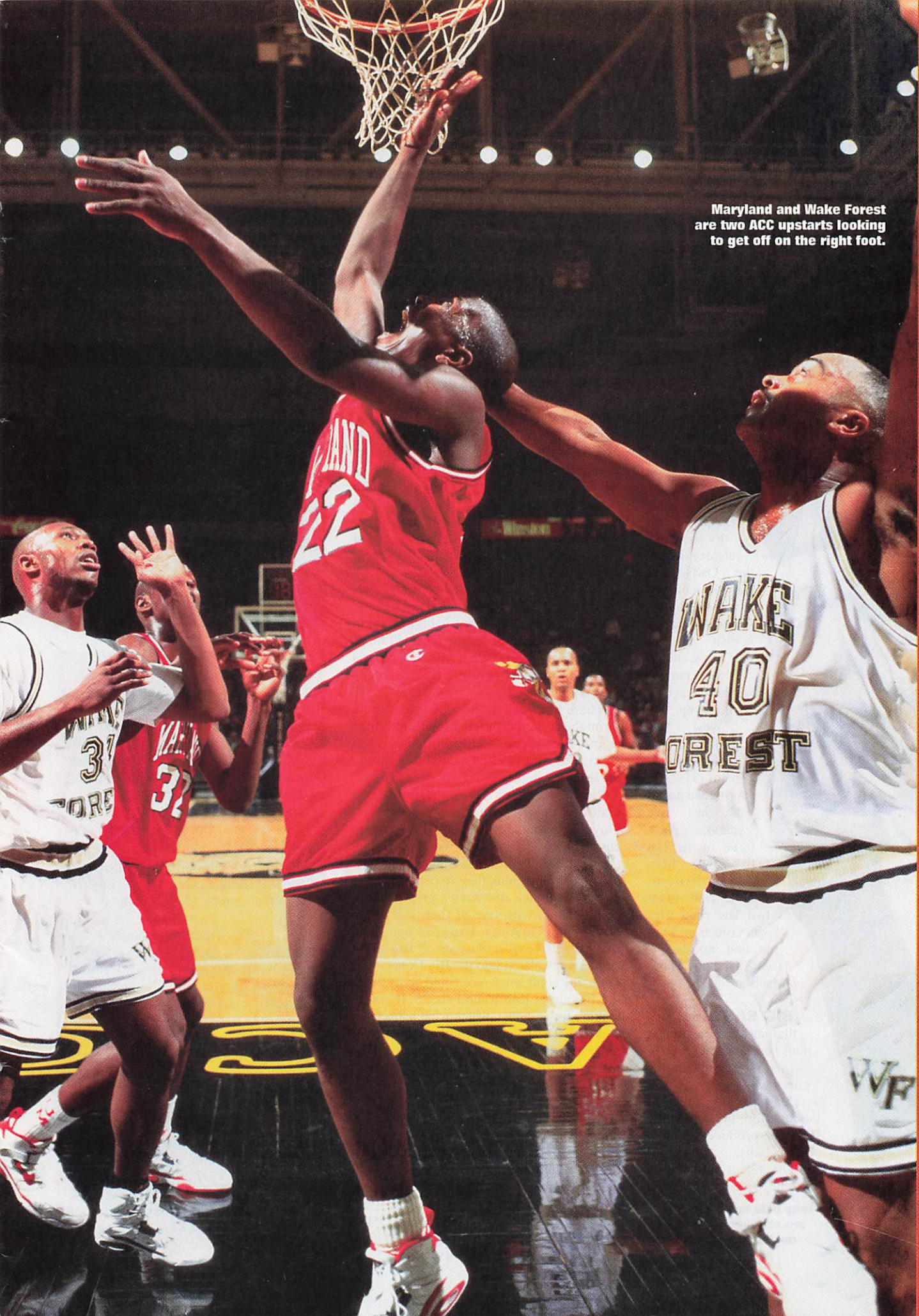
Maryland, on the other hand, plays four of its first six away from Cole Field House, not a favorable start for a young team (three junior starters, two sophs) with unproven depth. And season-ending trips to Duke and Virginia won't help the Terps, who lost eight of their last 12 league games last year. Virginia owns the league's toughest schedule, playing four of its first five and two of its last three league contests away from Charlottesville.

Even after all that, the title could still come down to the annual Duke-Carolina season finale, to be played this year in Chapel Hill. The Heels have won the last two year-enders against their Tobacco Road neighbors.

**ATLANTIC 10:** The drama here won't come at the top of the standings, because superior depth and talent should earn Massachusetts a fourth straight regular-season title. Coach John Calipari's squad has lost only one of its last 24 home games against A-10 competition, and hasn't been beaten by a league foe in Amherst in two years.

The real fun comes from the four teams chasing the league's two probable at-large berths for the NCAA Tournament. For Temple, St. Joseph's, George Washington and West Virginia, an invitation to March Madness could





Maryland and Wake Forest are two ACC upstarts looking to get off on the right foot.





**BIG EAST:** The team that answers its questions best and quickest will win this league. Unlike previous seasons, when a clear-cut favorite has loomed from the beginning, 1994-'95 produces no such obvious bully.

"The talent is as good league-wide as it was last

**Tony Delk and Kentucky are shooting for a win on Jan. 29 at Arkansas.**

depend on a first-round win in the conference free-for-all in Philadelphia, so a good seed is a must. Late-season trips south by the Minutemen to play the Owls and Hawks, coupled with Temple's final-game visit to St. Joe's, should determine the league's runner-up.

West Virginia, a notoriously poor road team (11-27 in A-10 road games the last five years), plays three of its last five away from Morgantown, while GW mixes two late road trips with visits from Temple and non-league foes Xavier and James Madison.

year, but it's younger talent," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "Teams are groping for answers. As guys like [Georgetown's] Allen Iverson, [St. John's] Felipe Lopez, [UConn's] Ray Allen and [Syracuse's] John Wallace emerge at midseason, people will learn a lot more."

Georgetown has a great opportunity to introduce Iverson to the point position in a nurturing environment. The Hoyas' first five road games include Pittsburgh, Miami and Seton Hall, all expected to be second-division clubs. Syracuse newcomer Michael Lloyd should be set at the point by the time the Orangemen close with three of their last four in the Carrier Dome, where they were 8-1 in the league last year.

Looking for a spoiler? Try St. John's, which hosts both Syracuse and Georgetown to end the season. St. John's faded down the stretch last year, losing its last six regular season Big East games. Don't expect another fold; by late February, the much-heralded freshmen tandem of Lopez and center Zendon Hamilton could be dangerous.

**BIG EIGHT:** No one predicted Missouri would run the Big Eight table last year and finish 14-0, so confidence is high again in the Midlands that the league race will be its usual crowded self. "What Missouri did last year was mind-boggling," Kansas coach Roy Williams said.

There has been a big-time talent drain throughout the conference, with only one team—Iowa State—returning a solid nucleus. But, surely, the Cyclones can't win the league, can they?

"Iowa State has a new enthusiasm and a plan that comes with a new coach [Tim Floyd]," Williams explained. "It's tough to convince kids who never won before that they can be champions. But, with a new coach, they just think they're better."

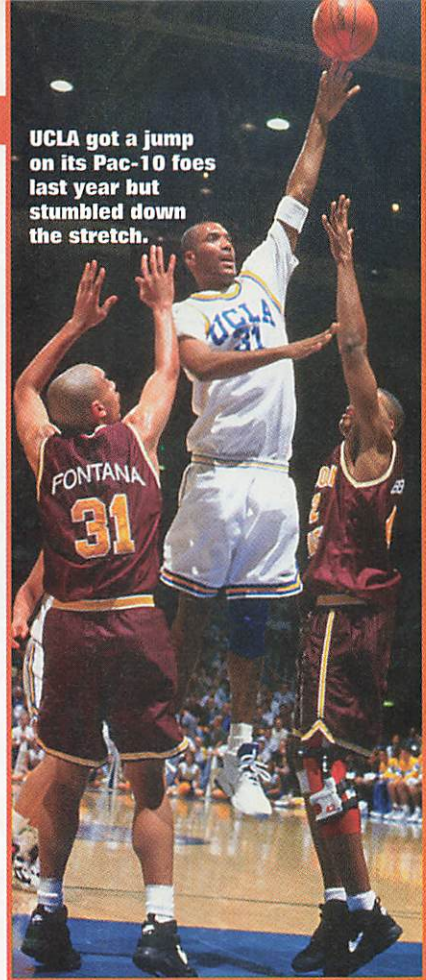
The Cyclones also have a great season-ending slate, with five of their last seven league games in Ames. Two years ago, Iowa State won five of its last seven Big Eight games and waltzed into the Big Dance.

Or, the conference race could come down to Missouri at Kansas on Feb. 25. If you're looking for a winner, watch what happens in their Jan. 9 matchup in Columbia. In each of the last seven seasons, the team that won the first game also won the rematch (Kansas four times; Missouri three).

**BIG TEN:** As one of only two major conferences not to sponsor a postseason tournament, the Big Ten stages a regular season race that actually means something. And with four teams considered serious contenders, it should be a doozy.

By now, Michigan coach Steve Fisher should have experimented enough to have discovered a way to blend his fantastic (see,

**UCLA got a jump on its Pac-10 foes last year but stumbled down the stretch.**



## DARKHORSE FAVORITES

● **TULANE:** The Green Wave could surprise in March if sophomore forwards Jerald Honeycutt and Rayshard Allen develop as expected and lead guard Kim Lewis picks up where he left off.

● **WAKE FOREST:** The Deacons may not have depth, but they do have two potential All-ACC selections in guard Randolph Childress and rapidly improving sophomore center Tim Duncan.

● **UNLV:** Tim Grgurich, one of the best teachers in the game, should help prove there is life after Rollie Massimino in the desert. Junior center Kebu Stewart looks like a future pro.

● **ARIZONA STATE:** The Sun Devils have a great one in Mario Bennett and enough talent to finish among the top four in the Pac-10.

● **UTAH STATE:** If forward Bryon Ruffner can stay healthy, UConn transfer Covington Cormier can fill the lead guard spot and 6-7 JUCO transfer Silas Mills is as good as we think, the Aggies, with five starters returning, could find their way into the NCAA Tournament.

— Dick Weiss



## COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT

● **RANDY AYERS, Ohio State.** Whatever happened to the team that won back-to-back Big Ten championships in 1991 and 1992? NCAA violations in the recruitment of Damon Flint followed by the loss of an entire junior class has set this program back and made Ayers a target of angry boosters.

● **RUDY WASHINGTON, Drake.** He's a big man in the BCA, but the Bulldogs, who won only six Missouri Valley games last year, must replace their top three scorers and could wind up at the bottom of the league standings behind Indiana State.

● **JIM ANDERSON, Oregon State.** Can Pac-10 fans in Corvallis stand another six-win season by the Beavers?

● **HUGH DURHAM, Georgia.** This veteran is popular in Athens, but not with the Bulldog athletic department, which didn't renew his rollout contract last spring.

● **LEONARD HAMILTON, Miami.** He didn't win a single Big East game last year. He'll need at least five conference victories to re-establish job security.

—D.W.

Two Big Eight big men who need big years: OSU's Reeves and KU's Ostertag.



## DO OR DIE

Five seniors who need big years to upgrade their stock:

**Bryant Reeves, C, Oklahoma State**

**Ray Jackson, F, Michigan**

**Donald Williams, G, North Carolina**

**Greg Ostertag, C, Kansas**

**James Forrest, F, Georgia Tech**

—D.W.

there are other F-words besides fabulous) freshmen with three returning starters. He better have, since the Wolverines' early Big Ten slate is heavy on road games. Keep in mind, the original Fab Five prepared for their historic postseason run by winning their final three Big Ten contests (Indiana, Purdue and Illinois in 1991-'92).

Indiana needs time to get its freshmen and sophomores ready and should learn a lot from Michigan's Jan. 24 visit. Wisconsin and Minnesota have the talent to contend, but each needs to win some road games. The Badgers were 1-8 as visitors last year in Big Ten play, and the Gophers have managed just seven conference road wins the last four years, four of which have come over Northwestern. With four of their last five in 1994-'95 away from cozy Williams Arena, Minnesota could be in big trouble.

**GREAT MIDWEST:** When February starts, Memphis coach Larry Finch may call his counterparts at Cincinnati and Saint Louis and ask to swap schedules. While the Bearcats and Billikens roll in with a bunch of home games, the Tigers play five of eight on the road. The Tigers were pussycats away from The Pyramid last season, losing eight of nine road games (1-5 against league foes.)

Pencil in the March 2 showdown between Cincinnati and Memphis (in Cincinnati) as the conference title bout. Both teams have considerably more talent than their foes. Saint Louis has an outside shot, but its chances hinge on a nine-day stretch during which the Billikens play Cincy twice and at Memphis.

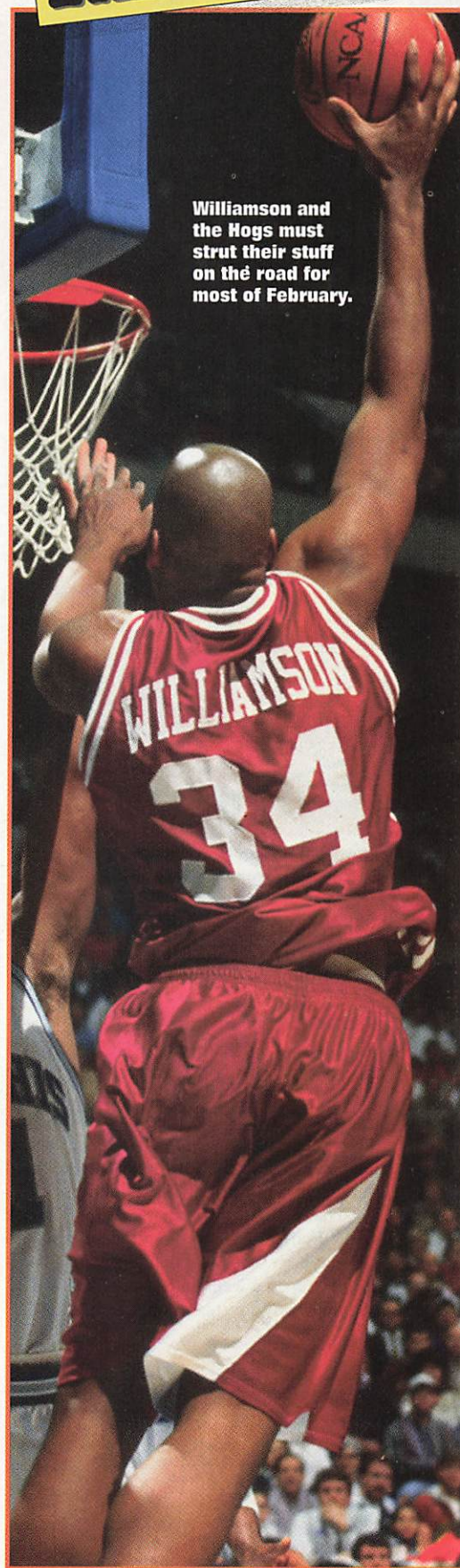
Eliminate Marquette early. The Golden Eagles (nee Warriors) will be stifled by a midseason interval that includes seven of eight on the road. Plus, they close with two games against Memphis in the last two weeks, though Marquette has taken three of its last four meetings against the Tigers.

**METRO:** If Tulane is as clear-cut a conference favorite as everyone thinks, then the Green Wave should have no trouble with a February that includes all but one of their Metro away games, including trips to challengers North Carolina-Charlotte and Louisville. The key for Tulane will be winning at both schools; the Wave hasn't won at either place since the 1991-'92 season.

The Cardinals have a tough road at the end of the year, but not because of any Metro challenges. Denny Crum's annual late-season parade of non-conference heavies (Temple, UMass, UCLA) is designed to prepare Louisville for tournament play. It backfired last year, however, as Louisville got caught looking ahead to games against Temple, LSU, Notre Dame and UCLA and got upset at home by UNCC.

NCAA hopefuls UNCC and Virginia Tech have near opposite paths to the tourna-

Williamson and the Hogs must strut their stuff on the road for most of February.





# MIDSEASON REPORT



Illinois-Chicago's Sherell Ford will get a closer look from the NBA this spring.

ment. The Hokies coast home with four of their last five in Blacksburg, while UNCC plays five of its final seven on the road.

**PAC-10:** After starting the 1993-'94 season 14-0 (7-0 in the Pac-10), UCLA crashed quickly and closed its conference schedule with a 4-5 slide. A seven-day, four-game February stretch that includes visits from Arizona and Duke could trigger a similar late-season collapse for the hugely talented but recently unfulfilled Westwooders.

"That's suicide," Bruin coach Jim Harrick said. "Somehow, it's going to catch up with us. Maybe it won't happen that week, but it could happen a week later. We will be out of emotion, and some team could jump up at us."

## BIG GAME HUNTERS

Four conference games that will impact the NCAA Tournament seedings:

- Kentucky at Arkansas, Jan. 29.
- Arizona at UCLA, Feb. 19.
- UMass at Temple, Feb. 23.
- Maryland at Duke, March 1.

—D.W.

## SECRET WEAPONS TO WATCH

**Eddie Benton**, 5-11, Jr. G, Vermont  
**Stephen Stewart**, 6-5, Sr. F, Coppin State  
**Sherell Ford**, 6-7, Sr. F, Illinois-Chicago  
**Marcus Brown**, 6-3, Jr. G, Murray State  
**Malik Rose**, 6-7, Jr. C, Drexel  
**Frankie King**, 6-1, Sr. G, Western Carolina  
**Otis Jones**, 5-11, Sr. G, Air Force

—D.W.

Meanwhile, Arizona faces a tough January stretch that includes four road games and a visit from UCLA. If the Wildcats handle that, they could be set up for a great run at home, where they are 45-2 in league play the last five years.

Don't forget about California. Should the young but versatile Bears survive a tough early road, they get a chance at a good finish, thanks to four home games and trips to Pac-10 weaklings Oregon and Oregon State. Cal has been known to finish strong; the team won 13 of its last 15 games a year ago and nine of its last 10 the season before.

**SEC EAST:** Kentucky could get a quick jump on Florida here, thanks to a January schedule that includes four straight home games following a key early trip to Gainesville. The Wildcats have been near impossible for SEC teams to beat in Lexington during the Rick Pitino era. In his five years at Kentucky, Pitino has posted a 38-2 home record against SEC foes; both losses came against Arkansas. This year's showdown will be on Jan. 29 in Fayetteville, where the Razorbacks are 24-2 since joining the SEC in 1991-'92.

Meanwhile, the Gators won't sneak up on anyone this season and face a treacherous stretch in February that includes a visit to Kentucky—where they haven't won since 1987-'88—a neutral-site contest against non-conference rival Florida State, and home games against West bullies Alabama and Arkansas.

**SEC WEST:** A soft early schedule will help Alabama, particularly since standout forward Jason Caffey will be just reaching top gear again after a foot injury suffered in late October. Arkansas isn't exactly trembling

over its January lineup of SEC opponents. The Hogs leave Fayetteville only twice in their first seven league games, though they do pay for it in February with road trips to Florida, LSU and Alabama, and they have yet to win in Tuscaloosa as members of the SEC. Of course, after winning the national title last year, the Hogs have their sights set a little higher than just a strong showing in league play. "I don't care about conference championships," Razorbacks coach Nolan Richardson said. "I have enough of them. I want to be a player on the national scene."

**SOUTHWEST:** For the first time in a while, a SWC team other than Texas has decided that a tough non-conference schedule might not be a bad idea. Texas Tech plays Temple, Kentucky and Wisconsin on the road this season, a strong test for its five returning starters and a good primer for a run at the league title.

The Red Raiders won eight of their last 10 to close out 1993-'94 and have a good shot at a similar finale this season, thanks to a favorable finishing slate. The season's key game could come Feb. 23 when Texas visits Lubbock in a battle of the SWC's top two teams. Not only is the game in Lubbock an important one, it's been thrilling the past two years; Texas won 128-125 in double-overtime last season and 105-103 the year before.

Texas A&M could position itself as a spoiler, thanks to back-to-back games with Tech and the Longhorns in early February—the Aggies swept Tech in the regular season and split with Texas last year.

## WESTERN ATHLETIC:

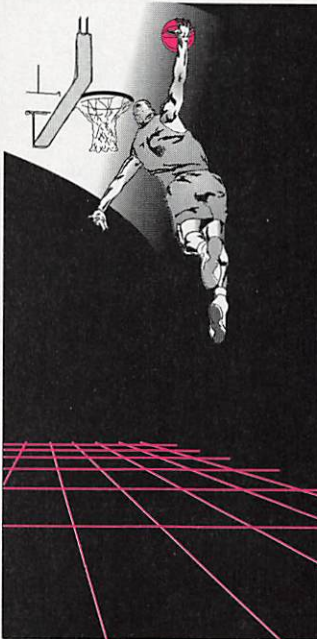
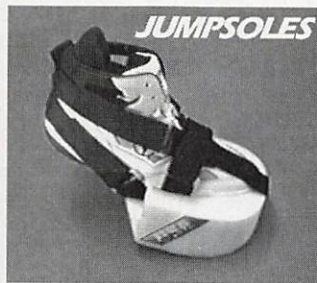
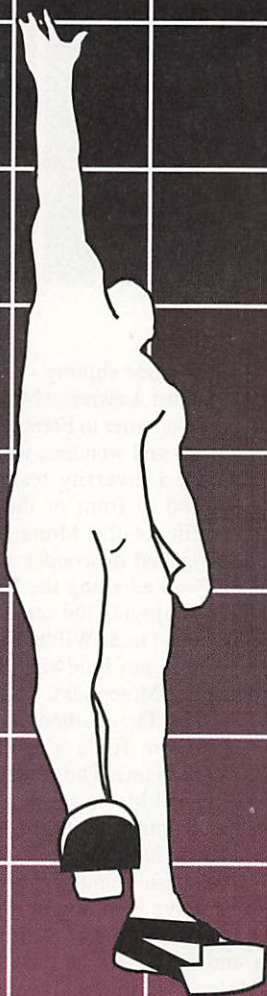
No WAC team has the depth or talent to challenge Brigham Young on paper, and except for a late-season roadswing to San Diego State and Hawaii, the schedule doesn't seem capable of tripping the

Cougars, either. BYU coach Roger Reid is 104-44 vs. the WAC, the best winning percentage in league history. All bets are off, though, when its time for the WAC Tournament. No team that won the regular season title outright has gone on to win the conference tournament since UTEP in 1984, the tourney's first year. **CS**

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia. Mark Clifford contributed to this story.



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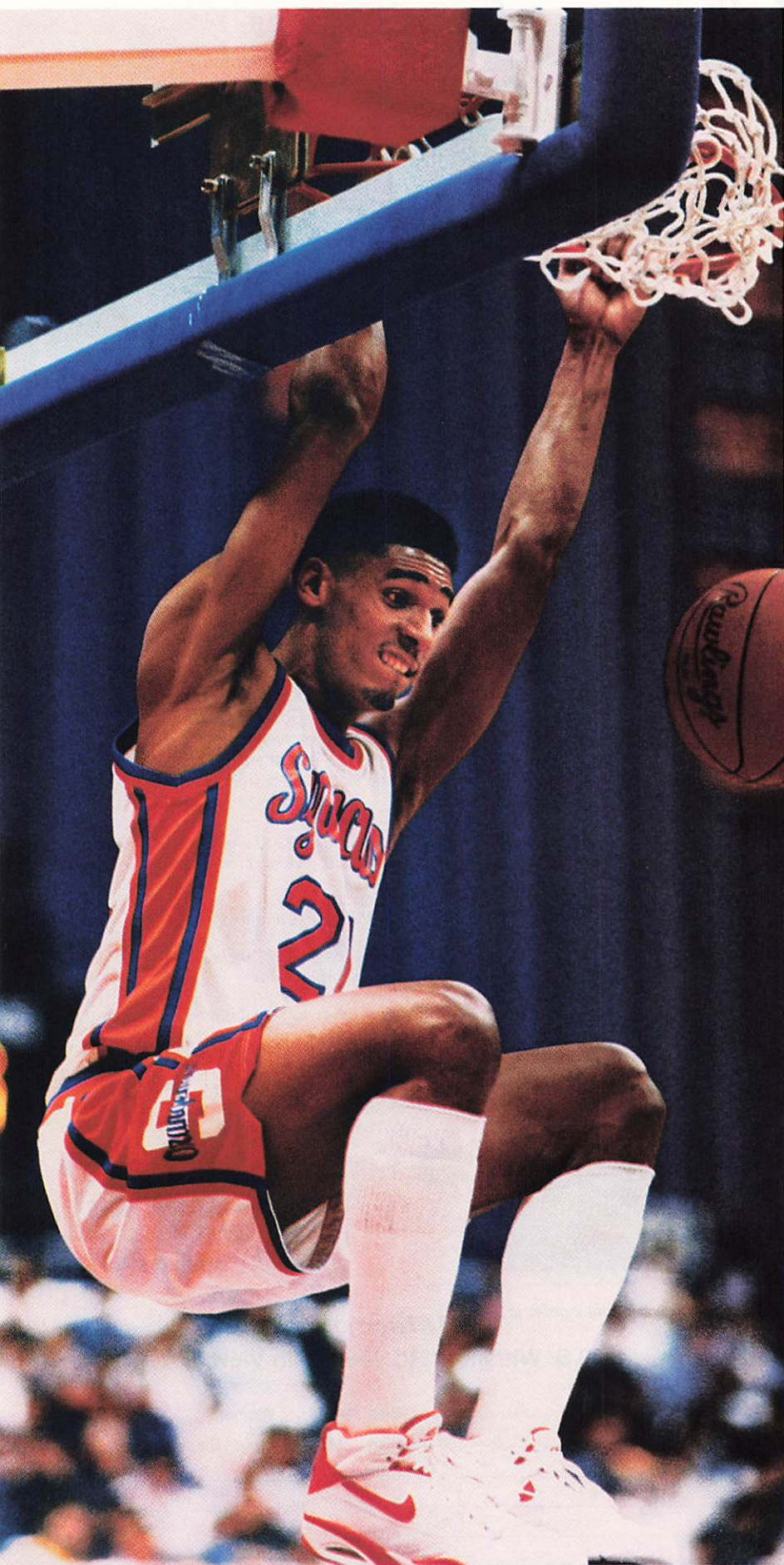
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# FINISH

**A**h, France shining in the light of August. Lawrence Moten traveled last summer to France, the land of wine and wonders, with his Syracuse University teammates. He stood in front of the enigmatic smile of the Mona Lisa at the Louvre. He gazed in wonder at the Eiffel Tower. He walked along the banks of the Seine River, enjoying the same sights that once entranced Oscar Wilde, Ernest Hemingway and James Baldwin. "It was very romantic," Moten said.

The Orangemen played eight games in 10 days against French club teams. Those teams saw the typical Moten show, a sight often as inspiring as those Moten took in on his trip. They saw a player who doesn't jump terribly high, who can't move with numbing quickness.

They saw this player score dozens of points and make it look easy. They saw why Moten will probably pass Derrick Coleman this season as Syracuse's all-time leading scorer (he entered this season trailing by 398 points) and Seton Hall's Terry Dehere as the Big East's all-time top scorer (he started the year 749 shy).

One afternoon, Moten was gazing out the bus window, watching the French countryside whiz by. He didn't much enjoy the bus rides. It's how he spent most of his journey in France, traveling from town to town, staring out the window. "The ride from hell," he called it.

John Wallace, Syracuse's power forward, started talking to Moten. Wallace has watched Moten for two years, and he has enjoyed the spectacle. But he's grown a little jealous of the way the ball always happens to go in Moten's direction.

"Lawrence," Wallace said to Moten, "even if you laid down on the floor the whole game, you would score at least 10 points. The ball always comes to your hands."

Moten laughs about that line. He can't deny the accuracy of Wallace's words.

"Well, it's always been that way," Moten said. "I just anticipate where the ball will go. That's all."

Then the laugh fades and he gets serious. Moten has his eye on another journey this season. He wants to ride all the way to the Final Four. "There's no pressure at all," he said. "I feel we can get there."

To get there, the Orangemen need a more



# HING TOUCH

## Syracuse Star **LAWRENCE MOTEN** Shoots for a Spot in the Record Books and the NBA.

By DAVID RAMSEY

rounded version of Moten, a 6-foot-5 senior. They need him to become more than a scorer. They need him to become a fully realized, fully developed player. When basketball people describe Moten, they use interesting words to illustrate him. They call him sneaky. They call him quiet. He's a surprise assassin.

But he has convinced Big East observers he can play at the highest level of college ball. Flashy? No. Spectacular? No. Breathtaking? No. Effective? Yes.

"He's a rare player in today's day and age," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "He's not a leaper, not an incredible shooter and he's not explosive. He's one of those players who scores 24 points and two of those points sometimes really hurt you because they beat you. He's a rare player who finds ways to score points and you often see at the end that he's beaten you."

"Lawrence knows how to score points," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "He knows where to be, and he knows a lot of ways to score. He can tip it in. He can get a steal. He can drive. He can find different ways to score points. That's what scorers do as opposed to shooters. If Lawrence isn't shooting well, he can still score."

This isn't what was originally expected from Moten. When he signed with the Orangemen, there was little fanfare. He had enjoyed a splashy career at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C., but his biggest splashes had been made in football. Moten caught 65 passes as a senior—14 for touchdowns—and, on the defensive side intercepted another 13. During one of the ceremonies honoring his football exploits, he met Joe Gibbs, then coach of the Washington Redskins. "If you ever need a job," Gibbs said to Moten, "give me a call."

But Moten set his sights on another line of employment. He wanted to play basketball. He turned down all football suitors to sign with Syracuse.

Friends called Moten "Little Sam" when he was a youngster in D.C. His growth spurt came late, and he learned to play a small man's version of basketball. He didn't roar and shout. He sank back in the shadows, waiting for his chance. After he grew, he retained his insight. He knows the game is won by outsmarting opponents, not overpowering them.

Moten was expected to spend most of the 1990-'91 season watching from the bench.

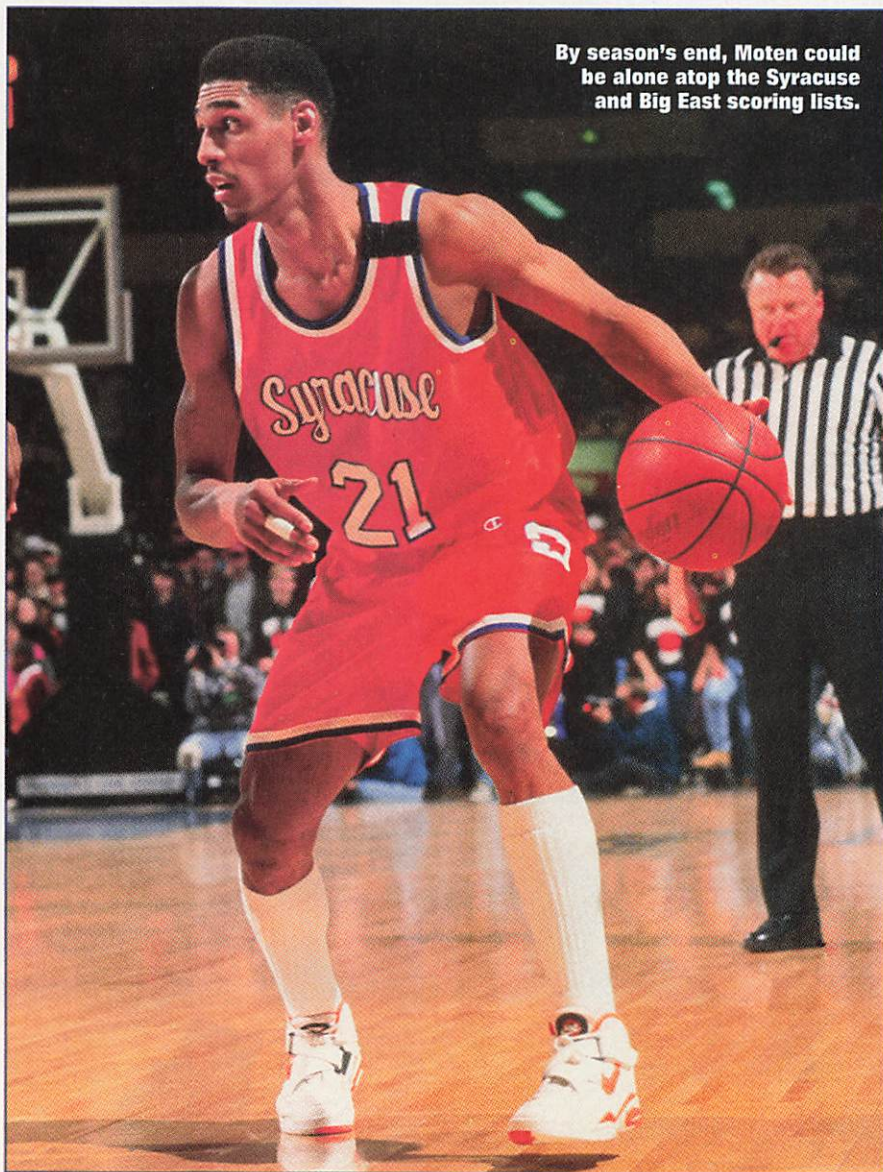
But then, he had been expected to play football. Moten had a grander idea and it didn't include sitting. He planned to play.

Moten stunned Syracuse fans, whose utter devotion to their basketball team helps them survive their city's brutal winters, when he emerged instantly as a star and the team's best player as a freshman. His spin moves left Big East defenders standing still and looking silly. He displayed amazing nerve. The first time he visited the Capital Centre (now the USAir Arena), the home

of the feared Georgetown Hoyas, he led the Orangemen to a convincing victory.

He also soared to a slam and had the inner fortitude—or the inner foolishness—to slap the Hoyas' Alonzo Mourning on the butt, just a little greeting to remind Georgetown's giant that he had just been burned. (Mourning, when he visited the Carrier Dome, threw Moten into a press table.)

Fans hung a "Poetry in Moten" sign from the second deck of the Dome. Moten established himself as a steady scorer, a player



By season's end, Moten could be alone atop the Syracuse and Big East scoring lists.



# MOTEN

who wanted to take clutch shots, a man who could hang back and find unlikely paths to two points.

The Orangemen traveled to the NCAA's Sweet 16 last season, and Moten gave every indication as the season ended that he wanted his college journey to conclude there. He spent weeks examining his chances in the National Basketball Association.

He wanted to make the jump from the Big East, where you play for a scholarship, love of the game and for your school, to the NBA, where you play for millions of dollars a season. His dilemma was understandable.

There was one problem. The NBA wasn't calling. Basically, NBA scouts and general managers yawned at the prospect of Moten joining their league. They said Moten needed better shooting skills, better shot selection, better defense and better passing before he moved up. Moten listened, but at times it wasn't clear if he heard. He kept looking at the pros, waiting

until deadline day to finally announce he would return to Syracuse.

"It was a tough decision," Moten said. "I talked to a lot of agents, and I didn't hear any bad things. I just heard even better things for next year."

Moten is, no doubt, a high-level college player. He can score against anybody. He is, when he remains inside the three-point line, extremely dangerous to Syracuse opponents. His moves down the baseline are straight out of a basketball textbook, and his pull-up jumper from the free-throw line, which he can sink after gearing down quickly from full speed, usually swishes. Moten shot 62 percent from inside the three-point line last season while averaging 21.5 points.

Outside the three-point line, though, he's dangerous only to his own team. He sank 28 percent of his threes and he took many of the shots under heavy guard. He also needs to work on his generosity with the basketball. Moten is sometimes oblivious to his open

## BEST OF THE BIG EAST

The top career scorers (all games).

| PLAYER/SCHOOL                  | GAMES | PTS.  |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Terry Dehere, Seton Hall    | 128   | 2,494 |
| 2. Chris Mullin, St. John's    | 125   | 2,440 |
| 3. Malik Sealy, St. John's     | 127   | 2,402 |
| 4. Dana Barros, Boston College | 119   | 2,342 |
| 5. Patrick Ewing, Georgetown   | 143   | 2,184 |
| 27. Lawrence Moten, Syracuse   | 91    | 1,745 |

The top career scorers (Big East games only).

| PLAYER/SCHOOL                  | GAMES | PTS.  |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Terry Dehere, Seton Hall    | 68    | 1,320 |
| 2. Chris Mullin, St. John's    | 62    | 1,290 |
| 3. Dana Barros, Boston College | 64    | 1,257 |
| 4. Bill Curley, Boston College | 70    | 1,177 |
| 5. Malik Sealy, St. John's     | 64    | 1,165 |
| 10. Lawrence Moten, Syracuse   | 54    | 1,035 |

teammates as he looks at the basket in his quest for points. The great players of the Boeheim era—Pearl Washington, Sherman Douglas, Coleman, Billy Owens—all shared one quality. They were willing to share.

Moten should look to Syracuse alumni Stevie Thompson and Dave Johnson, players with plenty of talent but ones who spent only a few moments on NBA courts, primarily because they never learned to pass the ball. Moten collected 66 assists last season. By comparison, Villanova's Kerry Kittles, who also plays shooting guard, dished out 109 assists.

Moten is trying to take care of all the details as he looks to the pros. He spent the summer working on his ballhandling and shooting. He played in a rugged D.C. summer league, competing against pros like Sam Cassell, Muggsy Bogues and Dikembe Mutombo. He labored at the neighborhood blacktop. "Always working," he said.

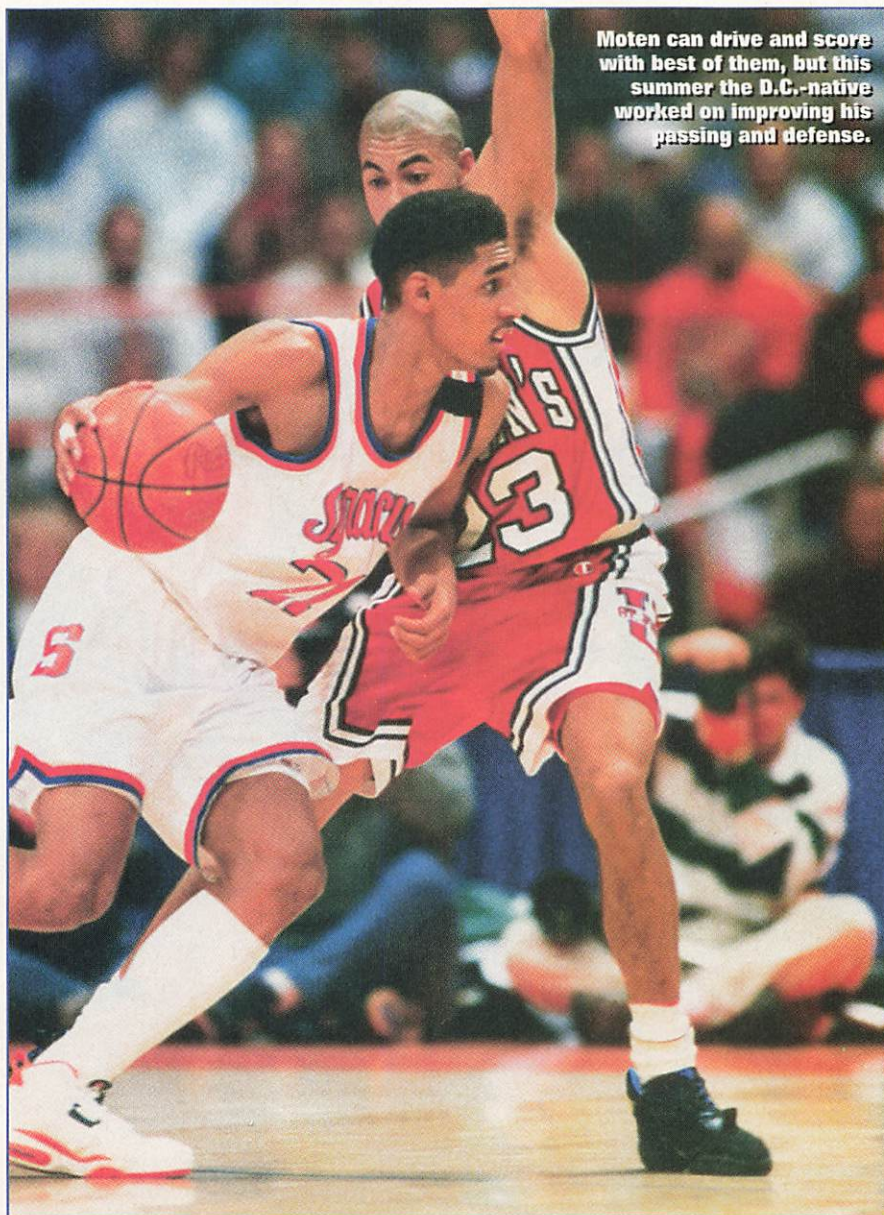
He also prayed. Moten talks often to the being he calls "The Man Upstairs." He asks for many things—help in obtaining his degree, health for his family and, of course, a nice spot near the top of the first round. "I pray to go in the draft," he said. "Go to the draft," he said again, softly.

This is his season to make that vision come true. He has a chance to become a complete player, to complement his scoring with passing and defending. Doing so could make the Orangemen mighty, Boeheim happy and Syracuse fans giddy. It could also place a few million dollars in Moten's pocket. He's done much, but he has a chance to do much more.

"Lawrence Moten lulls you to sleep and then suddenly explodes," Villanova's Steve Lappas said. "He's not a sleepy player, but he is kind of quiet. He can take people to the basket. He can score inside. He's just got the knack for scoring. There's no doubt about that."

Now it's Moten's time to silence his doubters. For some reason you get the feeling that Moten will get the job done, score his points, push his team to victories. Even if he has to do it from flat on his back. **CS**

David Ramsey is a staff writer for the *Syracuse (N.Y.) Herald-Journal*.



Moten can drive and score with best of them, but this summer the D.C.-native worked on improving his passing and defense.





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# AT THE SUMMIT

## Tennessee Coach **PAT SUMMITT'S** Passion For Excellence Has Made Her the Toast of Knoxville

By **DEBBIE BECKER**

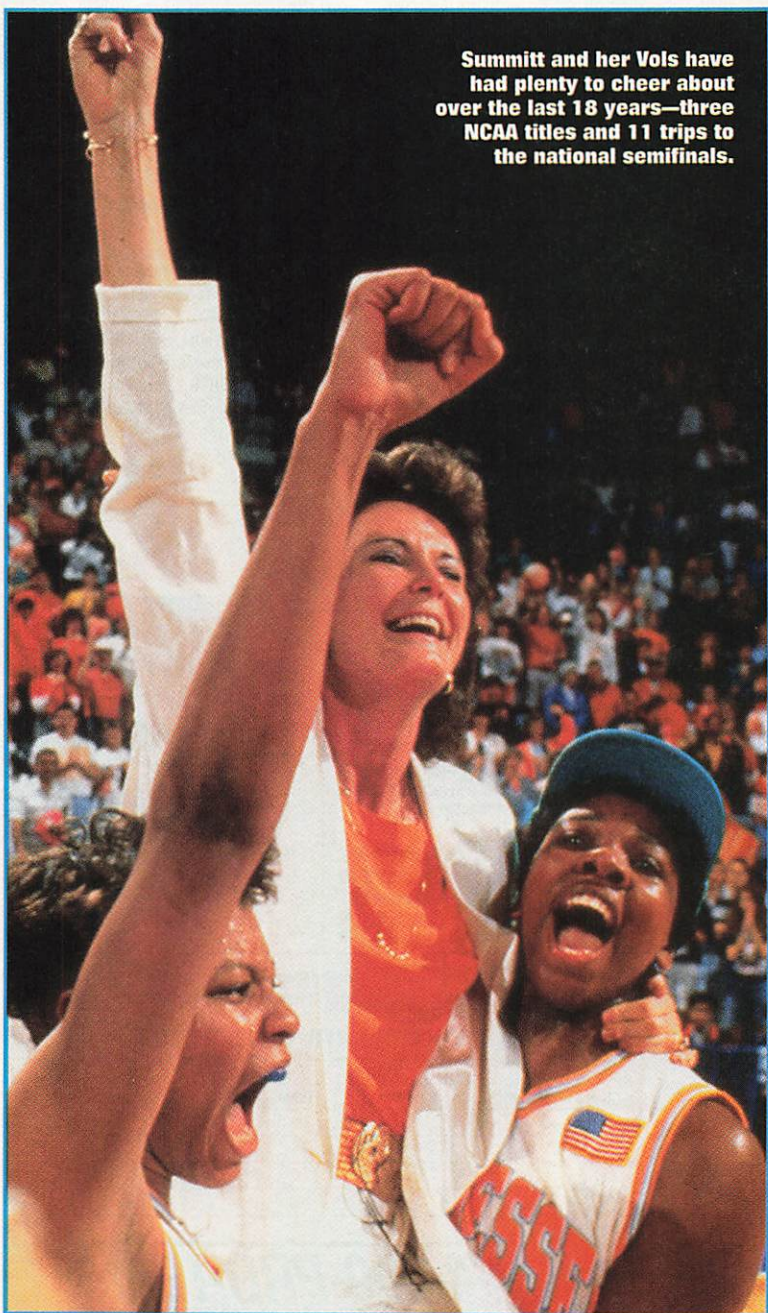
**F**our years ago, Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt was in Pennsylvania on a recruiting visit when she went into labor earlier than expected. Anxious to have the baby in Knoxville, Summitt got on a plane immediately. Still, it appeared she might not make it home in time. The pilot suggested an emergency landing in Roanoke, Va.

But Summitt, whose competitive fire burns just short of a seven-alarm inferno, would have none of that. After all, Virginia had knocked Tennessee out of the NCAA Tournament the previous season with an overtime victory in the East Regional final. The loss prevented Summitt's team from returning to the Final Four on its home court in Knoxville, where 20,000 fans had anticipated their arrival. "I am not having this baby in Virginia," Summitt said.

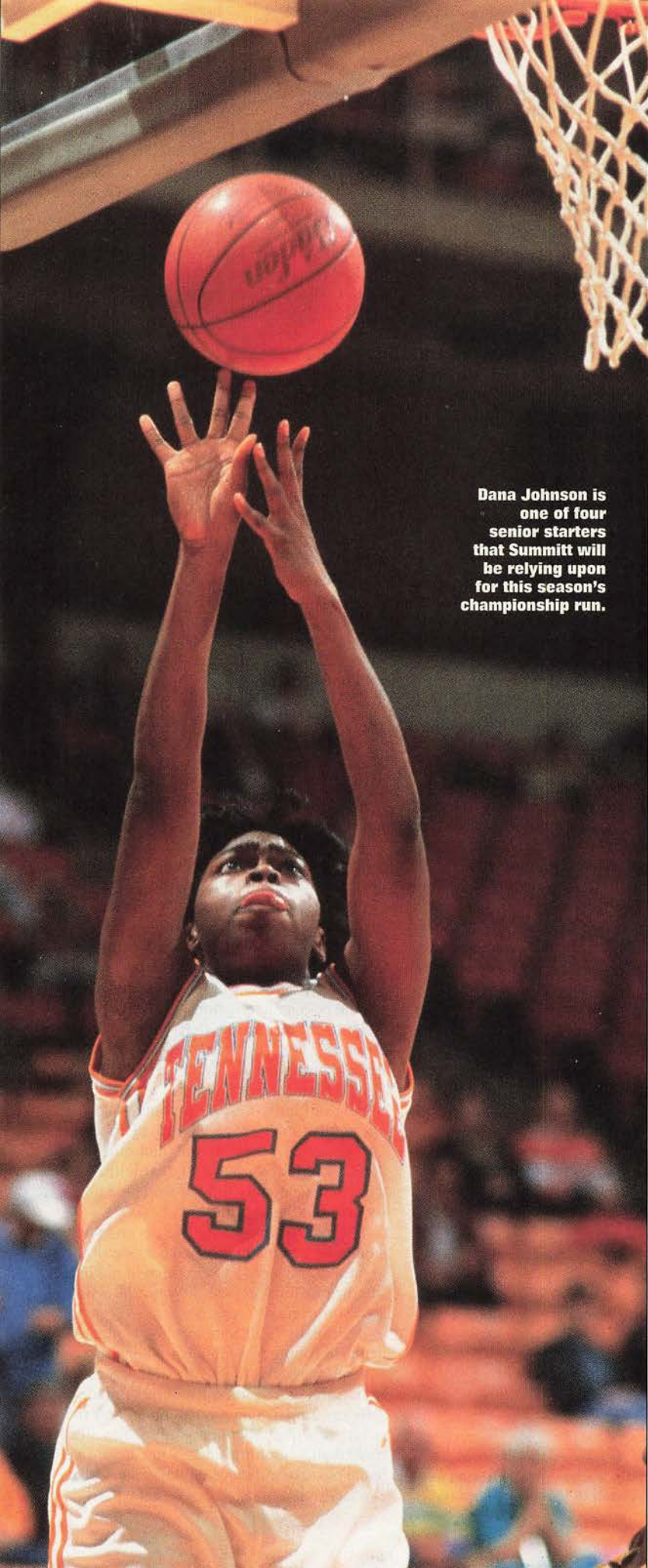
Her son, Tyler, waited long enough for the plane to land back in Knoxville. Today, the active 4 year old is a regular at Lady Volunteers' games along with Summitt's husband, R.B. Summitt, a banker and vocal fan—particularly with officials he disagrees with—who has had to tone down his courtside manner because little Tyler is picking up his dad's habit of yelling at refs who make calls against his mom.

It would take a lot of those calls to keep Pat Summitt down. She began this season as the second winningest active coach in NCAA women's basketball with 530 career victories; only Texas' Jody Conradt

Summitt and her Vols have had plenty to cheer about over the last 18 years—three NCAA titles and 11 trips to the national semifinals.







**Dana Johnson is one of four senior starters that Summitt will be relying upon for this season's championship run.**

has more wins (642 coming into this year). Summitt has won three national championships, the most recent coming in 1991, and her Vols are the undisputed team to beat in this year's NCAA Tournament.

Summitt wants a shot at her fourth title as intensely as ever. "I hate to lose and don't handle it too well," Summitt said. "When you walk away and not think about it, then it's time to do something else. When we lost to Louisiana Tech last year, I watched the tape three times the next day. But when we lost to Maryland in 1978 in March, I could not watch the tape until practice started the next season."

Preparation won't be a problem. Tennessee is playing the nation's best competition in order to be ready for March Madness. In Summitt's 21 years at the school, this season's schedule—which includes Louisiana Tech, Stanford, Connecticut, Virginia and Purdue—is the toughest. "We're saying up front what we want to accomplish," said Summitt, 42. "This team deserves a shot at going to the Final Four. We're facing it head on. This is our goal, our mission. We have to be tough enough."

**P**at Summitt's toughness has never been a question. As a player, she competed on the 1976 Olympic silver-medal team. In typical style, she froze her sprained ankle in a bucket of ice before tryouts so she could continue playing.

In 1984, Summitt coached the USA women to Olympic gold. She's taken her Tennessee team to 11 national semifinals in the last 18 years, winning championships in 1987, '89 and '91. Overall, Tennessee teams have finished second nationally three times and third five times. Summitt's favorite stat, though, has been compiled off the court; Tennessee's women's team has a 100% graduation rate.

Summitt's efforts have been rewarded financially. Today, she is among the highest-paid women's coaches in the nation, earning a base salary of \$110,000. She receives another \$20,000 for speaking engagements and an estimated \$50,000 for endorsements, camps, shoes, etc., bringing the total package to an estimated \$180,000.

She made news a few years ago when her base salary was more than then-men's coach Wade Houston. It was deserved, Tennessee fans said, because Summitt had better years. Whenever a vacancy has come up in the men's program (like last offseason), fans call for Summitt to take over. She's not interested. "This is my calling," she said. "The challenges that appeal to Pat Summitt are in the women's game."

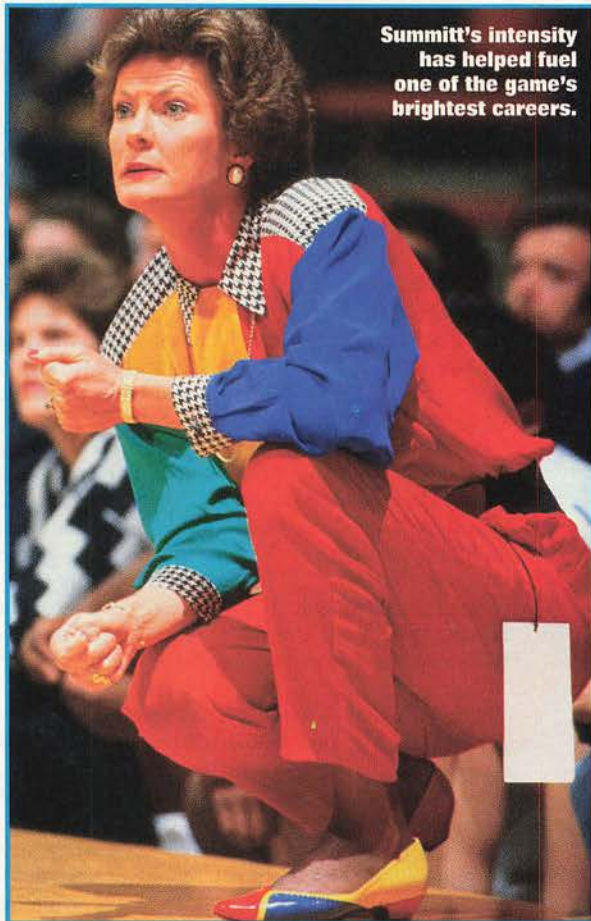
Times have not always been so good, though. Summitt recalls the early days when players slept on gym floors because there was no money for hotels, and when home teams at tournaments were decided by a coin flip because both teams only had one set of uniforms—white.

"There's no question we have more women's basketball fans than we've ever had before," Summitt said. "That continues to grow each season. Overall attendance is bigger and better. Television was unheard of when I started coaching. You were lucky to get 10 seconds on the 6 o'clock news. Now, we have national coverage and opportunities on regional networks. When it becomes a sport that is socially accepted by the media, that growth will continue.

"Women's athletics is now being funded in a way



# AT THE SUMMIT



**Summitt's intensity has helped fuel one of the game's brightest careers.**

that affords the opportunity to be competitive. You see full-time staffs, aggressive opportunities to recruit coast-to-coast, scheduling teams outside your conference and region.

"With this you see an improvement in overall skill level. High school coaches are better, there's greater incentive. There is motivation now for 12-year-old girls to go to college and receive scholarships."

One thing that hasn't changed through the years is Summitt's trademark—stifling defensive pressure. Remarking about Tennessee's physical style, Long Beach State players once described Summitt's players as "corn-fed chicks."

"More than anything, I think defensive style is a reflection of my personality—intense all out," Summitt said. "I never want to play soft on defense. You have to play hard and aggressive and take chances. . . . That's what our defense exemplifies—aggressive, intense, never-say-die."

"I've always felt you should not have an off-night on defense and rebounding. You may have an off-night shooting on the road, playing in tough places, but, in defense and rebounding, those are areas where you can be consistent. You have a shot at being in every game if you play defense and rebound."

Summitt, nicknamed "Bone" as a child because she was so tall and thin, attended Tennessee-Martin, leading the Lady Pacers to a 64-29 record in her four years there. She went to the University of Tennessee in 1974 to get her Master's degree and came away

with the head coaching job as a 22-year-old. That first year, she shared a five-person office in the gym's attic and had no scholarships to offer. Within three years, Summitt had her team in the Final Four.

"When you think about elite coaches, you think of Pat Summitt," said Purdue coach Lin Dunn, who took her young team to last season's Final Four and has been friends with Summitt for 20 years. "Pat set the standards for all of us. When you want to emulate a program or staff, you think of what Pat has done at Tennessee."

"She is so competitive," Dunn said. "She cannot stand to lose. That is a tremendous attribute. When you are that competitive and when you work as hard as she does, that rubs off on anyone around her."

That's why Summitt is so motivated to take the Volunteers to the title this season. She has a potential All America at every spot in the lineup and her substitutes would be stars at most programs around the country. Summitt's team has an overabundance of talent, and she knows it's her job to mold it into a winning blend.

Senior guard Tiffany Woosley, from perennial prep power Shelbyville, Tenn., first met her future coach in grade school when she attended a scrimmage and got Summitt's autograph. "She's a very, very intense per-

son," Woosley said. "You work your butt off. There's nothing easy about it. There's not a day in practice you don't get yelled at. But you know it's helping the team. It's actually good to get yelled at."

Last season, Tennessee went 31-2, was undefeated in the Southeastern Conference, won the SEC tournament championship and was ranked No. 1 most of the season. Still, the team was denied a trip to the Final Four when Louisiana Tech beat the Volunteers in the Mideast Regionals.

Summitt expects a different outcome this year. The Volunteers return four starting seniors: leading scorer Nikki McCray, leading rebounder Dana Johnson, Woosley, a three-point threat, and 6-6 center Vonda Ward. "I think our chances are as good as anyone's," Summitt said. "We have to play our best basketball in March. If someone jumps on us, we have to handle it. Our mental preparation is as important as anything we do."

With surprise teams like Texas Tech and North Carolina winning the past two NCAA titles, Summitt is more than aware that parity has arrived in women's basketball. "That makes our jobs tougher, particularly when you've been there year in and year out," she said. "That's good, though. For me, it's great motivation."

When Summitt isn't asked when her team will win its next title, she's asked when she will retire. It's a puzzling situation. "Here we are, we've won three national championships, I'm only 42 years old and people want to know when I'm quitting," Summitt said. "In men's football and basketball, you have guys coaching in their 60s."

"I do know I want to put in 25 years. At that point, I'll make an evaluation," she said. "But as long as I feel like I'm doing a good job for the university, as long as I enjoy this, I would expect to stay with it. Hey, I could be here a long time."

Perhaps one thing that could change Summitt's mind is the one factor that ended her recruiting trip to Michelle Marciniak's Pennsylvania hometown four years ago—the tug of family ties. Being both a mother and a full-time college basketball coach is "not the easiest thing to do," Summitt said. "Guilt is what you have to deal with. You have to have quality time at work and quality time with your family."

During the season, the team is an extension of Summitt's family. "She is one of the greatest motivators I've ever met in my life. She brings out the best in you. She won't settle for average," McCray said.

That really is all Summitt is seeking: excellence from herself and from her team. It is what she hopes to leave to the game and to her players. "I hope I will have made a difference for young women on and off the court, in helping them prepare for life after basketball," Summitt said. "I just hope I've had a positive influence on the game." **CS**

Debbie Becker is a staff writer for USA Today.



**One of Summitt's trademarks has been her hands-on approach to teaching defense.**





**AFTER LAST YEAR'S WACKY  
ONE-NIGHT STAND-UP  
ACT, WHAT'S NEXT  
FOR NORTHWESTERN'S  
RICKY  
BYRDSONG?**

**T**here apparently was some method to what seemed like madness on the night of Feb. 5, 1994, inside Minnesota's Williams Arena. How else to explain what was the most bizarre and baffling incident of the 1993-'94 college basketball season?

Looking back, Northwestern coach Ricky Byrdsong said, "I know what I did and why I did it." What Byrdsong did was intentionally focus attention on himself at the expense of his team—something taboo in coaching theory, but a recurring reality in the high stakes, high pressure world of college basketball.

What he did with his one-night walk on the wild side was toe the line between motivational genius and certifiable insanity. But what he did also turned around a struggling team, enabling it to reach the postseason for just the second time in school history.

Byrdsong, in his first season at one of the nation's top academic schools, challenged convention—and won. It was a delayed and, at times, questioned victory, but it was remarkable for both its uniqueness and its effectiveness. Even doubters became believers by season's end.

"We've got a good coach," said Northwestern athletic director Rick Taylor prior to the start of the 1994-'95 season. "Not only has the guy proven he can coach basketball, but the thing he brings most evidently to the program is that he inspires a tremendous amount of trust and faith in his players."

**WHEN ALL ELSE GOES WRONG**, you gotta have faith. And on that cold night in Minnesota in the middle of yet another Northwestern loss, Byrdsong tested his players' faith like never before. As the Wildcats were on their way to falling to 0-8 in the Big Ten, Byrdsong turned the team over to his assistant, Paul Swanson, and became an observer, sitting on a stool at the end of the team's bench. Twice he walked onto the floor to argue calls.

Then, Byrdsong took two strolls into the stands while the game was in progress, working

**WALK  
ON THE  
WILD SIDE**

**By NEIL MILBERT**



## WILD SIDE

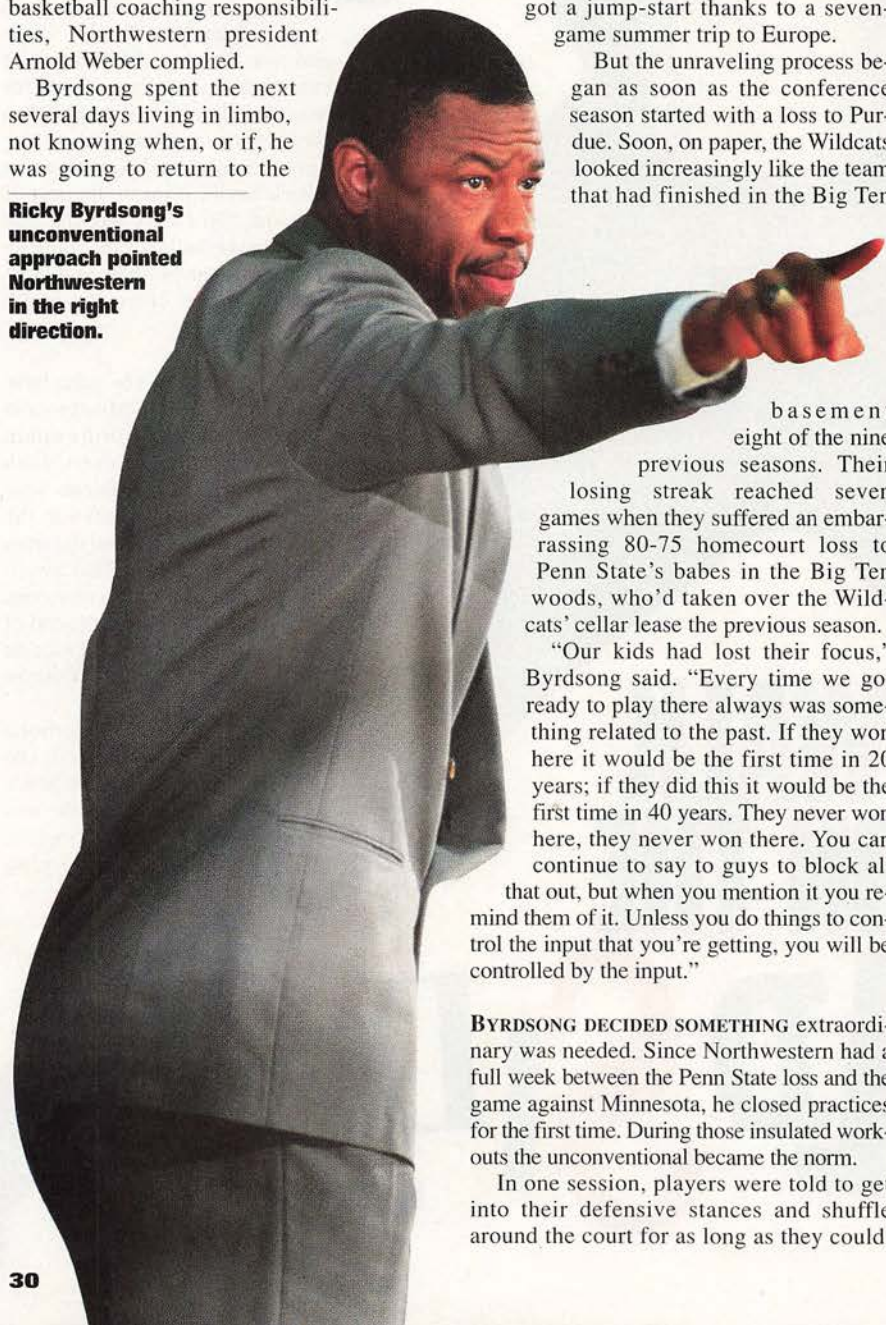
the crowd as he shook hands and bantered with them. Heckled by the Minnesota band, he laughed and waved. He high-fived the Minnesota mascot. He took a seat in the aisle until a security guard asked him to move, when he then meandered to the end of his team's bench.

Byrdsong said it was all part of an attempt to get his players to focus in the midst of chaos. "The one thing we were focusing on too much was what we were hearing," he said. "The players were hearing, 'Can you win in the Big Ten? Can you do it at an academic school?' They were allowing things to get into their minds that were getting them to question themselves and preventing them from being successful."

Amid the chaos engendered by the coach's sideshow, Northwestern lost, 79-65. When Byrdsong returned home, there were repercussions. Taylor took a dim view of the incident and so did Byrdsong's wife, Sherilyn. When she requested that her husband be granted a leave of absence from his basketball coaching responsibilities, Northwestern president Arnold Weber complied.

Byrdsong spent the next several days living in limbo, not knowing when, or if, he was going to return to the

**Ricky Byrdsong's unconventional approach pointed Northwestern in the right direction.**



team. Finally, 12 days after Byrdsong's incident, Taylor said the 37-year-old coach had "been evaluated and we are satisfied he can return to coaching and be successful."

"They wanted to make sure what happened was genius or insanity," Byrdsong said. "I'm leaning toward genius. Some are leaning toward insanity."

Before the season ended, many others were leaning toward genius, too, because ultimately Byrdsong attained his objective. What Byrdsong did that night obscured a plan for righting his team that had been in effect the week preceding the game.

Northwestern entered the Big Ten season on a high after compiling a 9-0 non-conference record, the school's best in 11 years, and winning a holiday tournament title, the Hatter Classic, for the first time since 1968. Byrdsong, the team's first-year coach who had spent the five prior seasons at Detroit-Mercy before succeeding Bill Foster, relied on a senior-laden lineup that got a jump-start thanks to a seven-game summer trip to Europe.

But the unraveling process began as soon as the conference season started with a loss to Purdue. Soon, on paper, the Wildcats looked increasingly like the team that had finished in the Big Ten

basement eight of the nine previous seasons. Their losing streak reached seven games when they suffered an embarrassing 80-75 homecourt loss to Penn State's babes in the Big Ten woods, who'd taken over the Wildcats' cellar lease the previous season.

"Our kids had lost their focus," Byrdsong said. "Every time we got ready to play there always was something related to the past. If they won here it would be the first time in 20 years; if they did this it would be the first time in 40 years. They never won here, they never won there. You can continue to say to guys to block all that out, but when you mention it you remind them of it. Unless you do things to control the input that you're getting, you will be controlled by the input."

**BYRDSONG DECIDED SOMETHING** extraordinary was needed. Since Northwestern had a full week between the Penn State loss and the game against Minnesota, he closed practices for the first time. During those insulated workouts the unconventional became the norm.

In one session, players were told to get into their defensive stances and shuffle around the court for as long as they could.

**'I thought all along the guy is a genius. We needed something drastic. He did something drastic.'**

—former guard Kip Kirkpatrick

After 80 minutes, the only players left on the court were starting senior guard Todd Leslie and two seldom-used subs—6-7 junior T.J. Rayford and freshman point guard Jevon Johnson. Rayford and Johnson were rewarded with starting roles in the Minnesota game.

"In my mind, in practice that week and in that game, I had to teach the kids how to block out all the things that have no real impact on winning and losing," Byrdsong said. "They had to learn to focus on what the job was and they had to be able to walk away from the arena, forget about basketball and focus on their classes and not be concerned with all the outside issues."

"We were doing a lot of things to test that theory. I would give them five things to do and then would interject pressure by doing something disruptive. Or I would yell at one of the coaches while somebody was getting ready to shoot a free throw."

The trip to Minnesota was meant to be a continuation in this rigorous, unorthodox exercise in concentration. Byrdsong forbade talking and walking on the bus rides to and from the airports and on the flight. He told his players to take out the textbook of their most difficult class and focus on that subject during the plane trip.

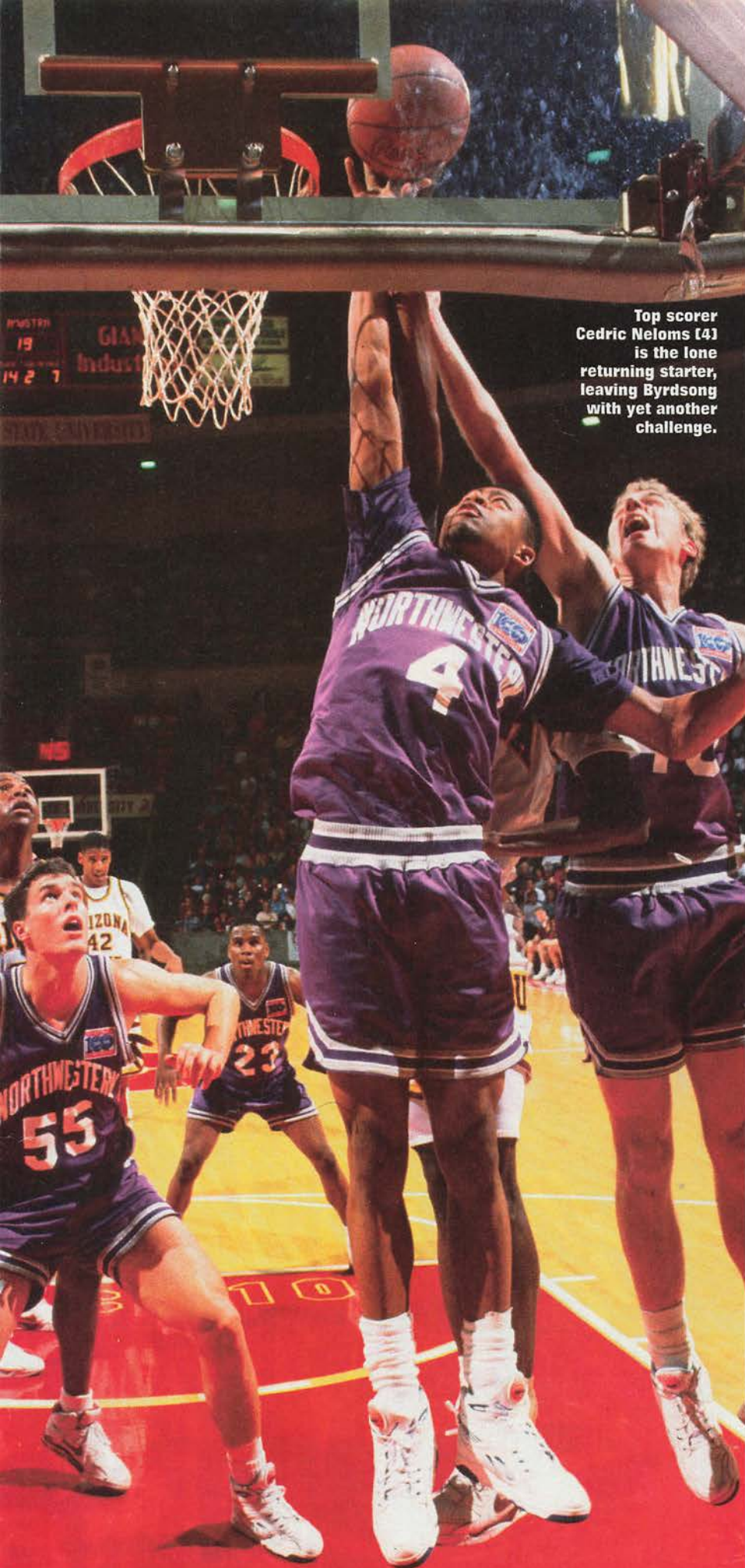
Before the game, Byrdsong said, "I told the players, 'I want you all to be able to be what you want to be, not only in basketball but in everything. You have to focus and you have to have courage. Courage is not avoiding fear, which seems like the intelligent thing. Courage is moving in fear.'"

"Tonight I'm going to be the chaos you guys will have to overcome. I believe I'll be okay, but I won't let fear stop me from doing some things people will question. I'll put myself in an adverse situation. After the game you're going to see how much I mean what I'm saying."

When Byrdsong's words were translated into deeds, those in the arena and those who later watched the tape on TV thought he either had a stress-related breakdown or was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"Anybody who knows me well can verify that neither drugs nor alcohol ever have been a problem in my life," Byrdsong said. "All I did was push the limits in a motivational way. I didn't want to be thrown out of the arena but I did want to be a distraction. I knew the boundaries. When I went into the stands it was another act of distraction."





**Top scorer Cedric Neloms (41) is the lone returning starter, leaving Byrdsong with yet another challenge.**

Byrdsong succeeded in changing his team's mood the week of the game. "Coach Byrdsong created a very stressful situation and asked the players to focus," said Swanson. "We were in that mode all week. It didn't seem as unusual to us as it did to others on the outside."

"I thought all along the guy is a genius," said guard Kip Kirkpatrick, who has since graduated. "We needed something drastic. He did something drastic."

But the university hierarchy saw it as an unacceptable approach to motivation and demanded that Byrdsong be evaluated by mental health professionals. Inquiries by the media were stonewalled and Joyce Jones, the school's assistant director of student affairs who is a clinical psychologist, was called upon to talk to the players about Byrdsong's behavior.

The Big Ten took no action against Byrdsong in the wake of his bizarre behavior. And, like the Northwestern players and their families, members of Byrdsong's coaching peer group stood steadfastly behind him during and after his leave of absence. Arizona coach Lute Olson, for whom Byrdsong worked for five seasons as an Arizona assistant, said, "He was just such a quality person to work with—a wonderful representative of the program as a recruiter. You never heard anything but totally good things about him, even from the families of kids we didn't get."

Swanson, who had been Byrdsong's top assistant throughout his head coaching career, was named interim coach. In the first game without their coach, the Wildcats were trounced by Purdue. Five days later, the morning of Northwestern's next game against Michigan State, the university called a press conference at which Byrdsong apologized for a motivational ploy "that went further than it had to."

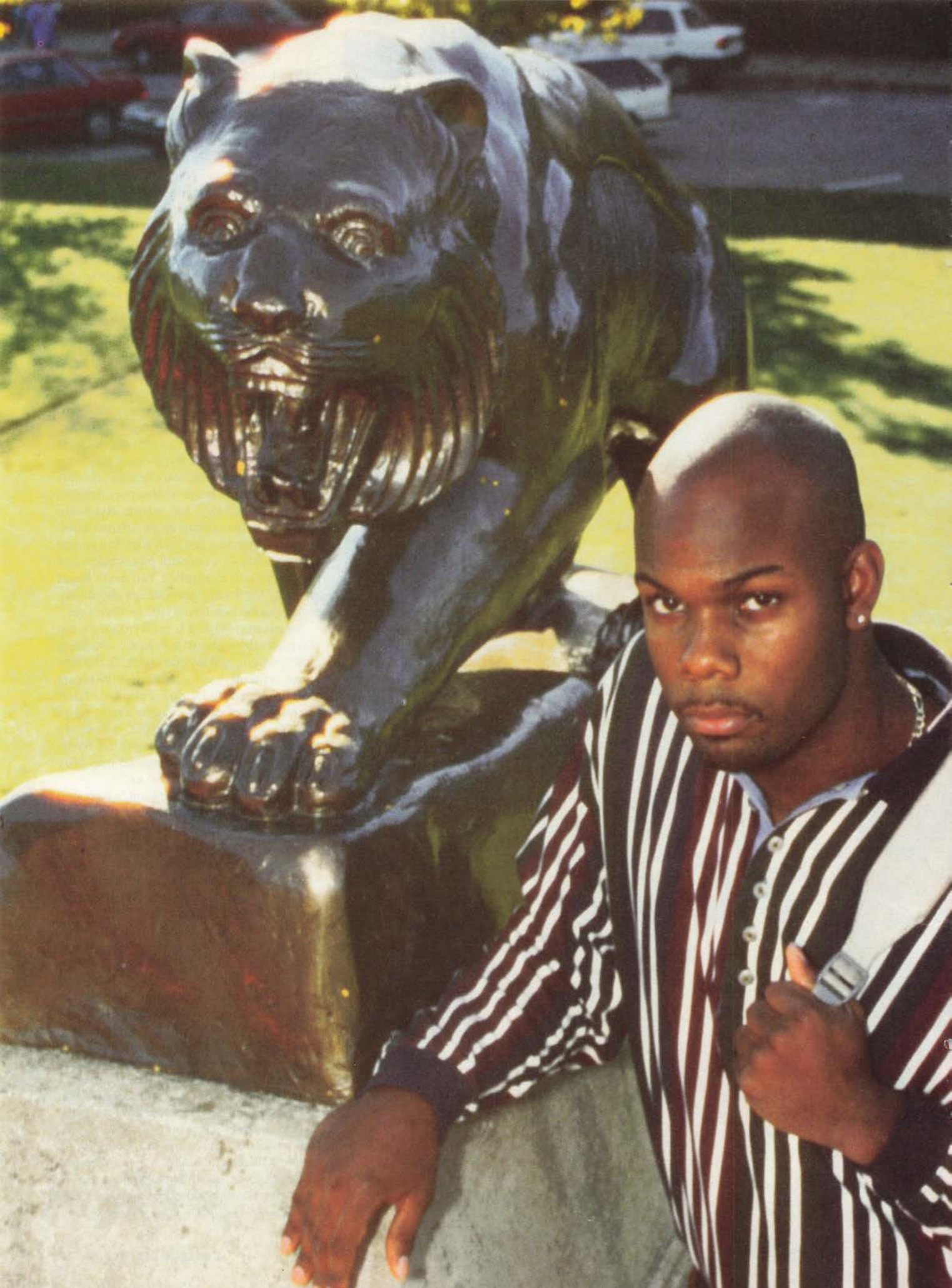
Following his return, the team, which split four conference games in his absence, continued having its ups and downs before an amazing 97-93 overtime upset of Michigan in the final game of the regular season to earn a bid to the National Invitation Tournament. Making only their second postseason appearance ever, the Wildcats advanced to the second round before losing to Xavier in overtime. The team's 15-14 final record marked Northwestern's first winning season since 1983.

Five key seniors graduated from last year's team, but Byrdsong expects the lessons of last year will carry over. "Last year was a great building block," he said. "The team tested a lot of limits and pushed through them. . . . We're approaching this season with optimism because we feel like we made a real impact on our players' attitudes last year."

"We have to look back and not look at the bad things but reflect on the good," Byrdsong said. "As I move forward, I don't think people will see anything but a guy who had a night that was unexplainable out of a lot of days where nothing unusual happened." **CS**

*Neil Milbert is a staff writer for the Chicago Tribune.*



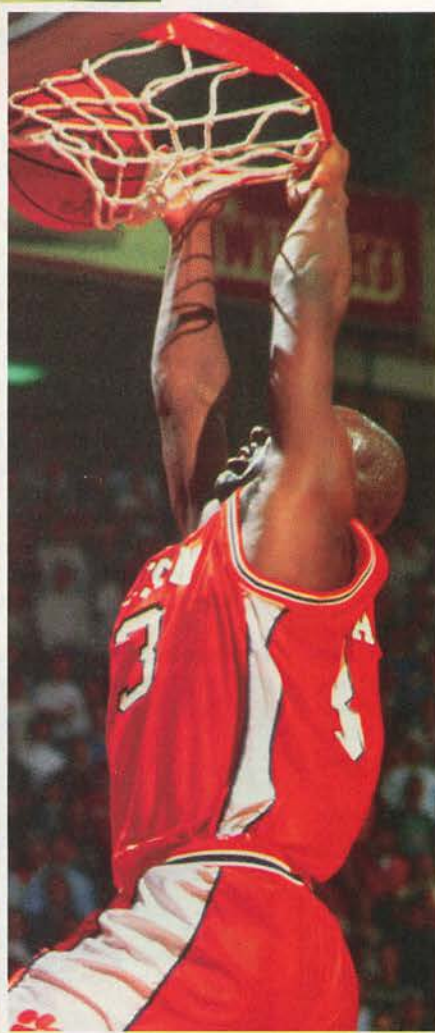




# THE HEART OF THE MATTER

## A Heart Attack Survivor at 22, Clemson Basketball Star DEVIN GRAY Returns to the Court and Refuses To Give Up

By DON MARKUS



As always, there will be loads of comeback stories in college basketball this year. Players coming back from injuries. Coaches coming back from the unemployment line. Teams coming back from losing seasons. And then there will be Devin Gray's comeback, which could be the most amazing story of all.

For now, and as long as he remains in the spotlight, the powerfully built 6-foot-6 forward won't merely be known as just another talented basketball player. "I'll be that basketball player who had the heart attack," Gray said.

Months removed from that April afternoon when it happened, those last two words—heart attack—still seem to make Gray shudder. It was the day the NCAA championship game was to be played a few hours up the road in Charlotte, N.C. Gray had just finished a rigorous afternoon playing pick-up and working out in the weight room at Clemson's Fike Gym.

Gray, who had been chosen third team all-ACC and finished as the league's leading field-goal shooter, had planned to watch the game that night with some friends. But as he started back across campus to his room, Gray felt a bit of discomfort. The feeling, which he would later liken to "a bad case of indigestion," intensified. The pain wouldn't go away and Gray began to get worried.

"I asked a friend to take me to the university's health center," he recalled. "We got there, and they took me to the hospital in Clemson. Then they took me to the hospital in Seneca [S.C.]. That's when I was actually having the heart attack."

Rushed to the cardiac-care unit of Greenville Memorial Hospital some 35 miles from campus, Gray's memories of that night are fuzzy. He remembers waking up and seeing a television set flickering with images of the game he was supposed to be watching between the Arkansas players he knew from high school summer camps and the Duke players he had matched up favorably against during his first three years at Clemson.

"Some guys from Arkansas were jumping around, but I just turned over and went to sleep," said Gray.

When he awoke a few hours later, with tubes and wires connected to his muscular body, reality began to set in. Coming right behind at full force was depression. "I kept saying to myself, 'Why me?'" said Gray, who spent eight days in the hospital.

It was the same question Gray had asked the night his appendix nearly burst as a high school senior at St.



# THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Francis Academy, a small Catholic school in Baltimore. It happened shortly after Gray had led his team to the state playoffs, forcing him to miss the last two games.

But a heart attack?

"You would think something like this would happen to an older person," Gray said. "To have a heart attack at age 22. I never had any chest pains. I figured I'd wake up and it would just be a nightmare. Night after night, the doctors had to pound it into my head that I had a heart attack. They made me understand that [my career] could be over."

The attack was, in essence, a clot caused by a spasm of the heart's main artery. Gray's blood was abnormally thick and the clot had cut off the regular flow, shutting down the artery. And when that happened, Gray joined a rapidly growing list of basketball players struck down before they had ever reached their prime.

**T**he news stunned Gray's teammates, many of whom didn't find out until after they returned from study hall that night. "It's kind of a funny story," recalled senior guard Bruce Martin. "Devin wasn't in study hall and we're thinking, 'We're going to have to get up at 5 a.m. to run because of him.' When we got the call to tell us what happened, it was a shock."

In his hometown of Baltimore, the news of Gray's heart attack struck like an all-too-familiar thunderbolt. The previous summer, the city had mourned the death of Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis, who had grown up on the same tough streets and played in the same schoolyards and rec centers nearly a decade before Gray. The sixth man on Dunbar High School's legendary undefeated team that produced four No. 1 NBA draft picks, Lewis collapsed during a Celtics playoff game and died of heart failure while shooting baskets three months later.

When Gray returned home to undergo further tests at Johns Hopkins, he kept hearing the names of Lewis and the late Hank Gathers, the All America from Loyola Marymount who died from a heart attack during a game in 1990. "People assumed that I had the same thing they did," Gray said. "People didn't know that my incident was so far different from theirs."

It was different, his doctors in South Carolina had told him, because Gray's condition wasn't induced by exercise. Nor was it caused by some congenital defect. When the doctors at Johns Hopkins concurred with that opinion, Gray's comeback began.

Though Gray's mother didn't notice a difference in her son when she visited him in the hospital—"He looked like the same Devin to me," Patricia Gray said—her confidence was restored by a higher authority. "I put more faith in God than in what the doctors say," she said. "I always believe that things happen, and we don't always understand why. [Having a strong faith] helps a lot. You accept what happens and you go forward with your life."

While the six weeks spent at home recu-

perating and relaxing were therapeutic, the medicine her son was taking made him tired and hungry. His weight ballooned to 266 pounds, almost 30 pounds more than when the heart attack occurred.

"When you get home and eat all that good food, you tend to get a little big," said Gray, whose game is built around his quickness as much as his muscle. "It comes from having nothing else to do. I've always been an athletic person who could do anything he wanted. I didn't have the energy to do anything but eat."

**'I don't take anything for granted. I think about the future, but I plan only for the next day.'**

—Devin Gray

There was speculation that Gray's basketball career at Clemson was over, as well as talk that the Tigers' new coach, Rick Barnes, had been the victim of bad timing after leaving Providence to take over a program that was in the process of losing its two best players. Center Sharone Wright, who, like Gray, had just finished his junior year, announced his intentions to turn pro within days of Barnes' arrival.

And then came Gray's heart attack.

"I told Devin all along, 'I just want what's best for you,'" Barnes said. "From the beginning, from that night I walked into the hospital room in Greenville, he told me, 'I'll be back.' We left the decision up to him."

As he walked into the hospital room, Barnes recalled a team meeting from a few

days before. Barnes and Clemson's seven remaining players—including Gray—gathered to talk about what he expected of them, not so much on the court as in the classroom.

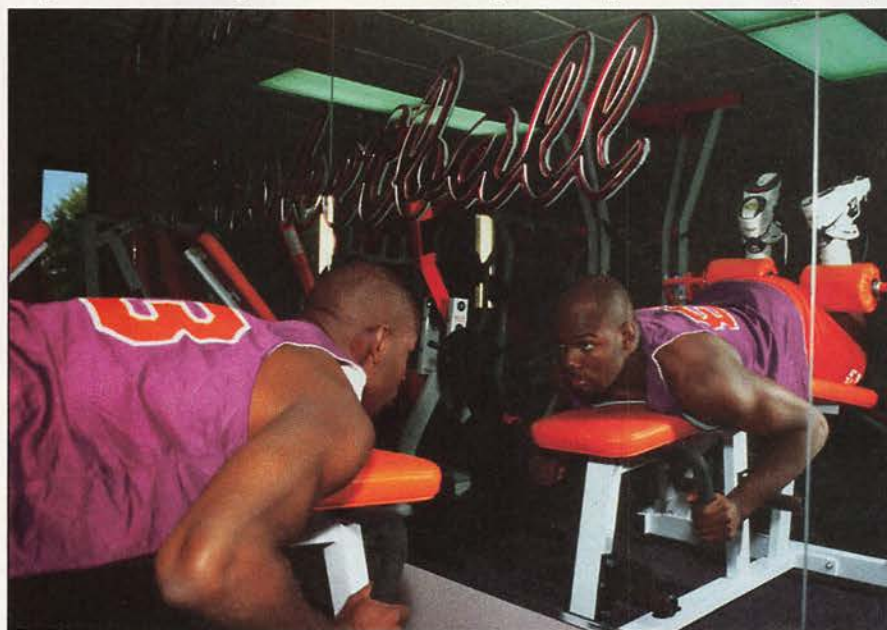
"I told them they couldn't miss a class and that it was non-negotiable," said Barnes, who had inherited a program that had some academic shortcomings under former coach Cliff Ellis. "Devin asked me, 'What if you're sick?' and I told him, 'Only if you're on your death bed.' Little did I know the next time I'd see him he'd be in the hospital recovering from a heart attack. When I went to see him in the hospital, with all those wires in him, he said to me, 'Does this qualify?'"

While the prognosis on Gray's full recovery was encouraging, his future as a player seemed questionable at best. Even if Gray's condition improved to the point where he could get clearance from doctors to play, how long would it take to get back in shape? Gray was encouraged to read that Notre Dame star Monty Williams was picked by the New York Knicks in the first round of the 1994 NBA Draft, but he also knew that the 6-7 forward had sat out two years in South Bend while doctors tried to figure out if he could play with his condition. Williams finally signed a waiver clearing Notre Dame of any responsibility.

But for Gray, that was jumping ahead of himself. There were still more tests to be done and an intense rehabilitation program at a facility called The Life Center in Greenville to be completed before any final prognosis on his future could be made. "We felt all along last summer that he would be able to play if he went along with the program," said Dr. Stuart Clarkson, Clemson's team physician. "We knew what the problem was and we knew what caused the problem."

After spending time in Baltimore helping coach a 17-and-under AAU team, and after doing some walking and light jogging, Gray

**Gray has been working hard to burn off the 30 pounds he gained while recuperating.**





returned to Clemson in early summer. He needed to pick up some of the credits that he lost when he withdrew from school after the heart attack.

For the better part of the next two months, Gray drove to the Life Center four or five times a week for his rehab program. On doctor's orders, he started eating a low-fat diet, cutting out the fast food and replacing it with vegetables. "Lots of broccoli," Gray said laughing.

The process was more grueling than Gray had ever expected. There were nights when Gray drove back to Clemson totally drained from the simple process of running on a treadmill, wondering whether his comeback attempt was pure fantasy. But, slowly at first and then in a rush, Gray's strength and stamina started coming back.

"By the end of the summer, I started feeling good," said Gray, who was also put on four different types of daily medication, ranging from aspirin to a blood-thinner. "I started to do the things that an athlete could do, and I got pumped up."

Things like going full-bore for 45 minutes during a stress test on a treadmill—at the highest level, at the steepest incline and having the doctor tell him, "Only a world-class sprinter could do what you're doing." Like getting back onto the court—with his doctor's permission—to play in some light pick-up games in mid-September.

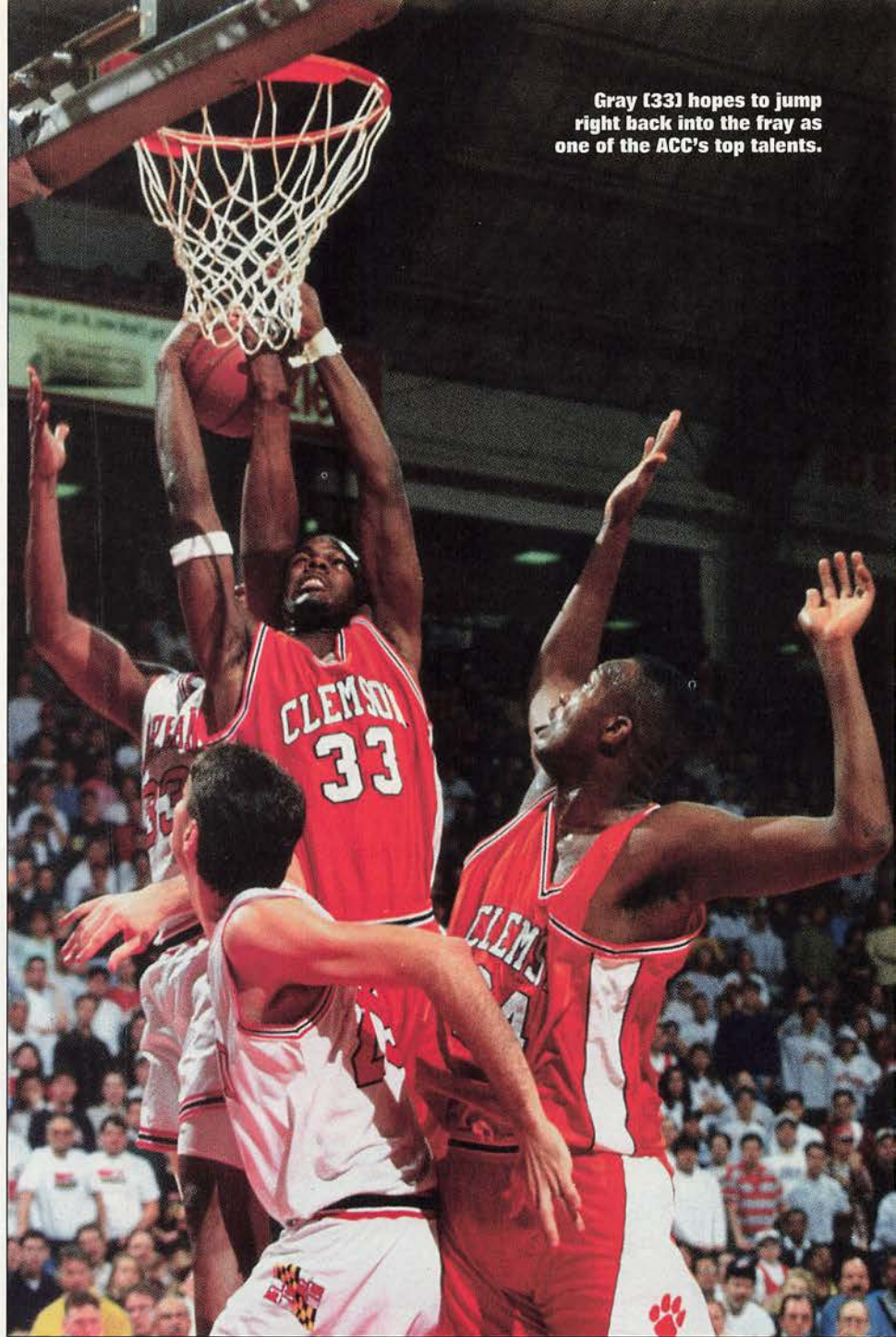
"I made my first couple of jumpers and dunks," Gray recalled. "It showed me that I wasn't too far off."

But that was only the first in a series of well-orchestrated steps Gray would have to take to get back into uniform. There were some who thought Gray was rushing himself unnecessarily, and those who believed he might be better off skipping a year while Barnes worked to resurrect a program that started to slip during the last couple of years under Ellis, who left for Auburn last spring as Clemson's all-time winningest coach.

"I thought about it a lot," said Gray, the only proven scorer (14.4 points last year) on a team filled with junior college transfers and raw recruits. "But we had a group of guys who came in here at the same time, and we've always been together. They were there for me when I had my problem. I figured I should be there for them."

After being cleared to practice in late September, the final obstacle came when Gray had to wear a heart monitor to measure stress during two days of preseason workouts. Finally, on Oct. 19, Gray got the go-ahead to play the 1994-'95 season. To do so, Gray had to sign a waiver similar to the one Williams had signed at Notre Dame.

Barnes could see a difference in Gray between the first two days and the next few weeks, which were interrupted by a sprained ankle. "I don't think there's any question that the moment the test came back and he was given the go-ahead to play, he made a major leap. I saw a completely different person," said Barnes. "He knew that if he felt a pain, it didn't



Gray [33] hopes to jump right back into the fray as one of the ACC's top talents.

mean he was having another heart attack."

Not that Gray doesn't have any doubts, any dark thoughts lurking in the back of his mind. When he felt a twitch below his rib cage one day early in practice, he walked quietly to the sideline to confer with Reno Wilson, the team's trainer. The pain quickly subsided, but Gray still isn't quite sure what to expect.

And he realizes that everyone who watches him this year, maybe even for the next few years if the opportunity to play in the NBA arises, will collectively hold their breath, hoping not to see another image of a player going down in a heap. Another Reggie Lewis. Another Hank Gathers.

"Deep down, it will be there a few more months for me," Gray said. "And I'm sure that people will wonder if I take a fall, will I get up?"

The Tigers, a near-unanimous pick to finish in the ACC basement this season, will certainly need Gray at full strength this winter to even be respectable. "I'm sure there'll be nights when Devin's going to have to carry us on his shoulders," said Barnes. Added Martin, "He's been an inspiration to us already."

The experience of last April and the months that followed certainly changed Gray. Now, the player who is college basketball's most remarkable comeback story is ready to take the next step: becoming one of the best players in the country again.

"I think I take things more day to day," Gray said. "I don't take anything for granted. I think about the future, but I plan only for the next day." **CS**

*Don Markun is a staff writer for the Baltimore (Md.) Sun.*





# CS' PRESEASON TOP 20

## Stanford's the Early Favorite, But the Contenders Are Lining Up

By GARY KLEIN

It's as inviting as mom ringing the dinner bell; a new season begins in college baseball, and teams across the land are invited to come and get it. There are no dynasties in this equal-opportunity community. Eleven-time champ Southern Cal hasn't even been back to the College World Series since winning the title in 1978.

"There are 20 teams at the end of the season that could win the national championship," Stanford coach Mark Marquess said. "Last year, Oklahoma was playing its best baseball at the right time. That's what it

takes to win the College World Series."

Marquess should know. He led Stanford to the '87 and '88 titles, the only team to win consecutive crowns in the past 20 years. If there is such a thing as a favorite in the revolving door world of college baseball, it may be Marquess' club.

### 1. STANFORD

The Cardinal returns outstanding pitching, seven of its eight starting position players and its designated hitter from a team that finished 36-24, won the Pacific 10 Conference Southern Division and advanced to the NCAA Central I Regional at Austin, Texas.

Junior catcher A.J. Hinch (.309, 7 HR, 36 RBI) is a preseason All America who is an outstanding defensive player and clutch hitter. Junior second baseman Brian Dallimore (.295-2-24), senior first baseman Dusty Allen (.279-7-53) and senior third baseman/outfielder Steve Carver (.290-5-32)—the Most Valuable Player of the Alaska summer league—form a strong nucleus.

The pitching staff features junior left-hander Dan Reed (10-5, 3.43 ERA), sophomore Jason Middlebrook (7-2, 2.54), junior Todd Bartels (6-4, 4.56) junior left-hander Mike Robbins (5-3, 3.88) and sophomore Tom Reimers (2-3, 2.45, 9 saves).

"Our strength is our pitching," Marquess said. "If we're going to be the type of team that can contend for a national championship, someone is going to have to pick it up power-wise."

### 2. OKLAHOMA

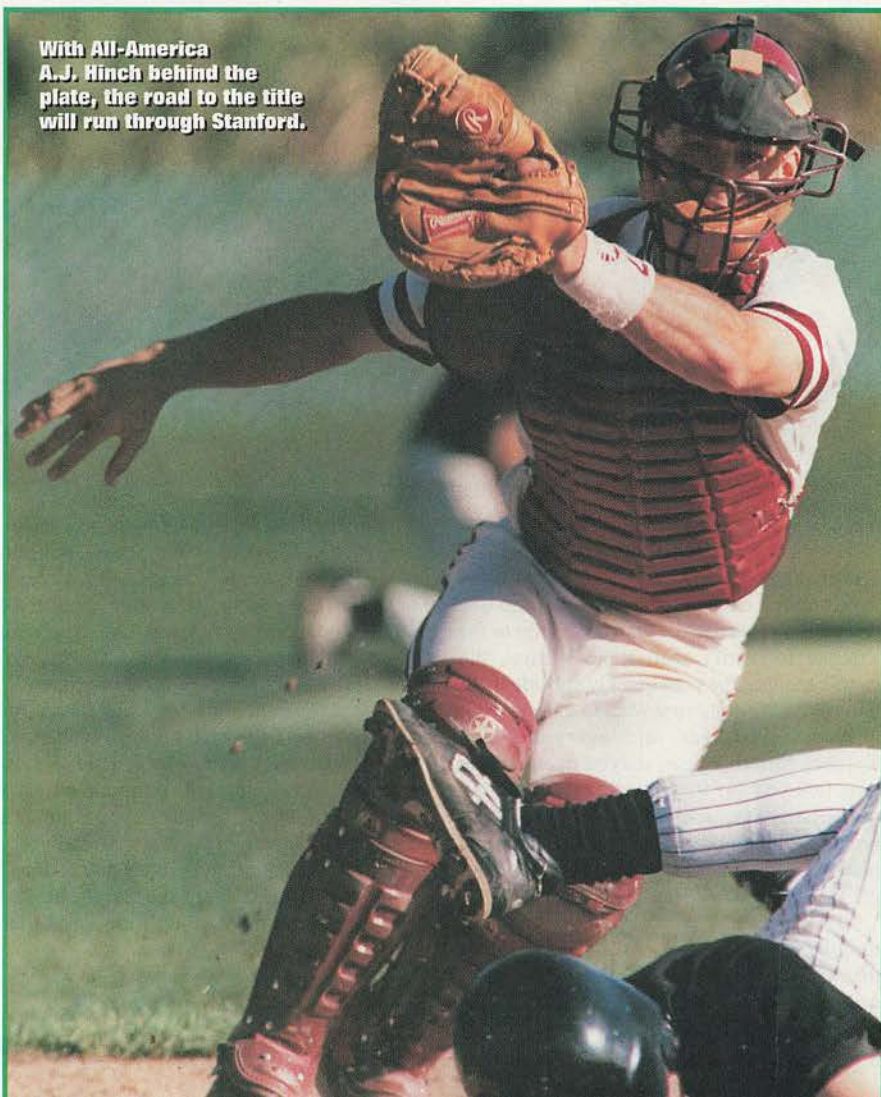
Coach Larry Cochell, in his fifth season, returns the bulk of a team that finished 50-17 and won the school's first NCAA baseball championship.

"We know that to win it all you have to be good, and you have to be lucky," Cochell said. "We didn't lose too many people, so our experience is going to be an advantage."

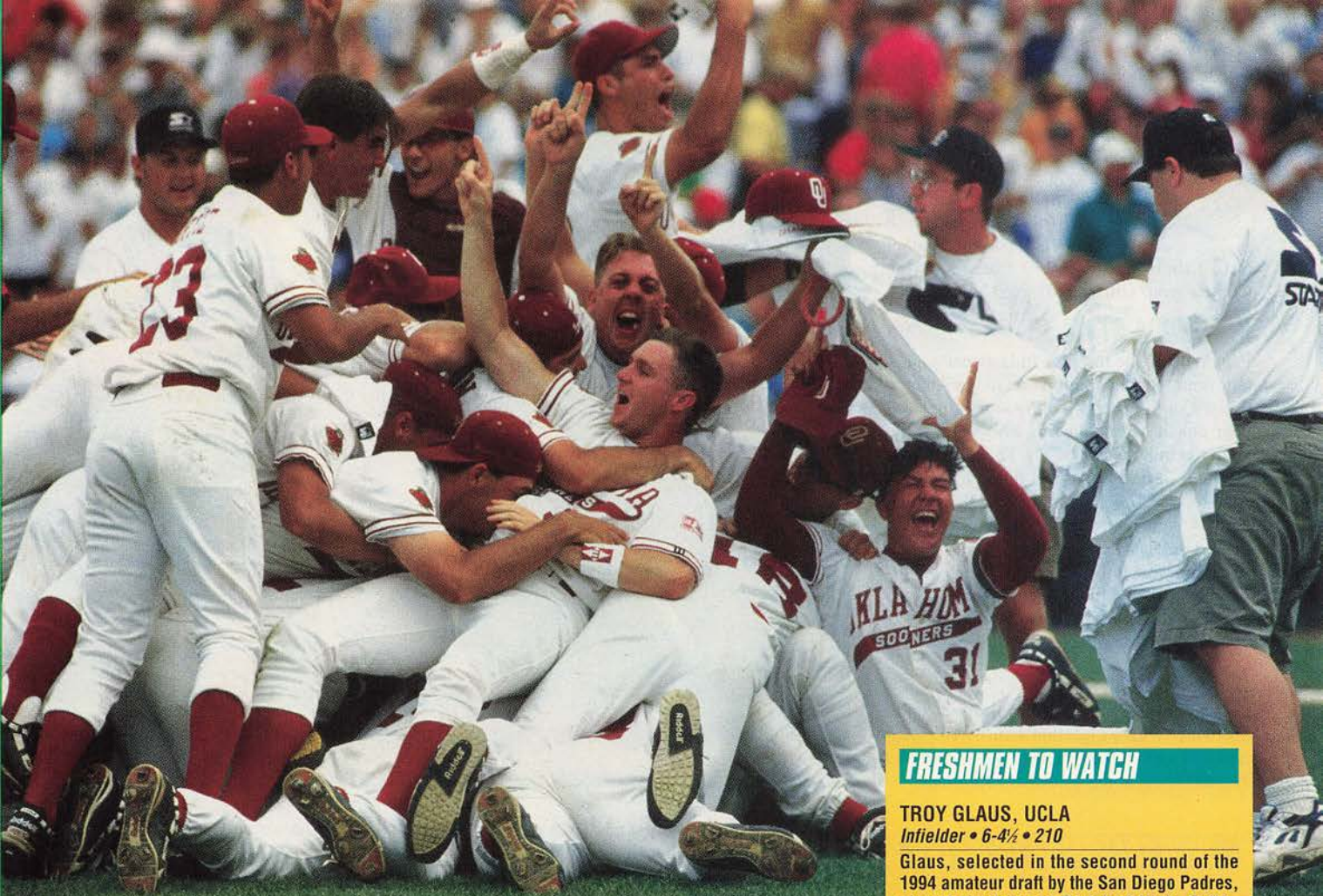
Junior left-hander Mark Redman (14-3, 2.71), senior Tim Walton (7-3, 5.03) and junior Russell Ortiz (2-1, 3.55, 3 saves) are the top pitchers.

Senior shortstop Rich Hills (.346-6-65), a two-time all-Big Eight Conference player, will team up in the middle with second baseman

With All-America A.J. Hinch behind the plate, the road to the title will run through Stanford.







Oklahoma won its first national championship last year, but the Sooners don't plan to rest on their laurels. They return most of their team and several star JUCO transfers.

Jesse Zepeda, a transfer from Cuesta College (Calif.), who was the MVP of last summer's National Baseball Congress World Series.

Senior Eric Thomas (.309-1-25-23 SB) will be joined in the outfield by junior college transfers Tristan Paul and Bobby Brown. Freshman pitcher/outfielder Brian Shackelford should make an immediate impact.

### 3. MIAMI (Fla.)

Former Georgia Tech skipper Jim Morris took the Hurricanes to the World Series in his first year at Miami, and they could be making a return trip this year.

Senior pitcher Kenny Henderson (6-4, 3.53) was drafted in the second round by the Montreal Expos but did not sign. Sophomore J.D. Arteaga (9-1, 2.74), senior Jay Tessmer (6-2, 1.16), sophomore Allan Westfall (3-0, 0.00 in 20 innings) and Jason Aedge (11-0, 2.42), a transfer from Sacramento City College (Calif.) form a strong pitching staff.

Senior third baseman Danny Buxbaum (.309-18-67) and senior outfielder Bruce Thompson (.296-6-39) are the top position players back in the Hurricanes lineup.

### 4. LOUISIANA STATE

The Tigers lost All-America second baseman Todd Walker and shortstop Russ Johnson, but there is still plenty of talent in Baton Rouge.

Coach Skip Bertman, in his 12th season, has a pitching staff that includes senior Scott Schultz (12-2, 3.26) and juniors Jeremy Tyson (9-3, 4.58) and Brett Laxton (4-5, 4.36), who missed two months last season because of tendinitis.

Junior Jason Williams (.301-6-36) moves from third to short. Sophomore outfielder Kevin Ainsworth (.296-5-38) and junior outfielder Chad Cooley (.290-11-50) provide experience. Outfielder Justin Bowles, the national JUCO Player of the Year out of Galveston Community College (Texas), should be one of the most exciting players in the country.

### 5. SOUTHERN CAL

Shortstop Gabe Alvarez (.326-7-51) and outfielder Geoff Jenkins (.373-15-47) are pre-season All Americans who could lead the Trojans to Omaha for the first time since 1978. Coach Mike Gillespie, whose team finished 41-20 last year, says the Trojans have more depth than at any time in his previous eight seasons. "We'll have quality guys off the bench both right- and left-handed—that's a first for us," Gillespie said. "And our pitching staff is deeper than it's ever been."

Outfielder Walter Dawkins (.280-17-45) must have another good year, and sophomore lefthander Randy Flores (11-1,

### FRESHMEN TO WATCH

**TROY GLAUS, UCLA**  
Infielder • 6-4½ • 210

Glaus, selected in the second round of the 1994 amateur draft by the San Diego Padres, played shortstop at Carlsbad High, Calif., where he hit .525 with eight home runs and 27 RBI during his senior season. Glaus' reputation was such that he rarely saw anything to hit. He had only 52 at-bats, but scored 36 runs and his on-base percentage was .732.

**MATT LeCROY, Clemson**  
Catcher • 6-2 • 215

LeCroy was a second-round draft pick by the New York Mets who batted .515 with 10 homers at Belton-Honea Path High in Belton S.C.

**BRAD FREEMAN, Mississippi State**  
Infielder • 6-1 • 205

Freeman, a fourth-round draft choice by the Toronto Blue Jays, batted .486 with 8 homers and 58 RBI at Oxford High, Miss. The son of a former NFL defensive back, Freeman gave up football to concentrate on his baseball career.

**ADAM PIATT, Mississippi State**  
Infielder • 6-2 • 185

Piatt, a member of perhaps the nation's best recruiting class, was a 10th-round draft choice by the New York Mets. He batted .419 with 40 RBI at Bishop Berot High in Ft. Myers, Fla.

**DEREK BAKER, USC**  
Infielder • 6-2 • 220

Baker was selected in the 12th round by the California Angels but only lasted that long because he was intent on going to college. He batted .386 with four homers and 22 RBI last season at Tustin High, Calif., where good pitches to hit were hard to come by. He walked 39 times, a California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section record.





1.66) is being counted on to anchor the staff.

Top newcomers include freshman third baseman Derek Baker, freshman pitcher

Seth Etherton and JUCO transfer Brian Cooper from Citrus College (Calif.).

## 6. FLORIDA STATE

Paul Wilson, the top pick in last year's amateur draft, is gone, but no one in the Atlantic Coast Conference is feeling sorry for 16th-year coach Mike Martin, who guided the team to Omaha last season. The Seminoles' pitching staff still features juniors Jonathan Johnson (12-1, 3.17) and Phil Olson (5-4, 3.34, 4 saves), both of whom played for Team USA last summer.

First baseman Doug Mientkiewicz (.344-12-63), catcher Mike Martin Jr. (.288-6-58) and second baseman Mickey Lopez (.291-2-42) are the top returning position players.

## 7. OKLAHOMA STATE

Coach Gary Ward begins his 18th season in Stillwater with a club that returns 10 pitchers from a team that finished 49-17 and was the runner-up at the Midwest I Regional.

## JUCO TRANSFERS TO WATCH

### JUSTIN BOWLES, Louisiana State

Outfielder • 6-0 • 185

Bowles was the national junior college Player of the Year last season after batting .388 with 21 homers and 87 RBI for Galveston Community College (Texas), which won the NJCAA Division I World Series.

### JASON ADGE, Miami (Fla.)

Pitcher • 6-0 • 190

Adge, a righthander, was 11-0 with a 2.42 earned run average last season at Sacramento City College (Calif.). He was 18-2 in two years of JUCO competition.

### JESSE ZEPEDA, Oklahoma

Infielder • 5-10 • 160

Zepeda started as a freshman at Fresno State, played last season at Cuesta Community College (Calif.) and was the Most Valuable Player of the National Baseball Congress World Series last summer. Zepeda helped lead Kenai to the NBC championship by batting .331 and stealing 19 bases.

### TRISTAN PAUL, Oklahoma

Outfielder • 6-3 • 200

Paul was one of the nation's best players at Harbor College (Calif.) in 1993 but was declared academically ineligible at Long Beach State before last season and did not play.

### BRIAN COOPER, USC

Pitcher • 6-1 • 175

Cooper was 6-0 with a 2.27 ERA last season at Citrus College (Calif.) after playing shortstop his first year. He struck out 104 batters in 84½ innings.

Brian Mannino and Ohio State are swinging for another Big Ten title.



Junior Jason Bell (14-2, 3.30), a preseason All America, anchors a staff that also includes junior Greg Dean (11-4, 4.05) and senior Chris Nelson (6-1, 4.35).

Senior outfielder Peter Prodnov (.323-9-76) and senior third baseman J.T. Messick (.303-0-23) are the leading returning hitters.

## 8. TENNESSEE

With preseason All Americas Todd Helton and R.A. Dickey leading the way, the Volunteers are planning their first trip to Omaha. "This is probably the most talent we've had since I have been here," said sixth-year coach Rod Delmonico. "We can monopolize both sides of the plate and have guys that can steal bases. The key for us is that Helton has to have another great year as a closer."

Helton (.355-7-80 / 5-0, 0.89, 11 saves) is COLLEGE SPORTS' preseason Player of the Year (see next page). Dickey (15-2, 3.00) led the nation in victories as a freshman.

Other top returning players include senior catcher Scott Vieira (.321-5-51) and senior second baseman Matt Whitley (.280-2-33). Freshman shortstop Mark Schlosser, who played for the Canadian national team, sophomore pitcher Tim Miller, a transfer from Florida State, and freshman infielder Eduardo Figueroa, the son of former major league pitcher Ed Figueroa, are the top newcomers.

## 9. CLEMSON

The Tigers finished 57-18 last season under first-year coach Jack Leggett. All-America outfielder Shane Monahan (.415-11-53-23 SB) led the nation with 137 hits and

scored 97 runs. Junior outfielder/first baseman Dave Miller (.313-1-59-23 SB) and junior shortstop Seth Brizek (.247-7-39) will also be back in the lineup.

Junior Jason Dawsey (6-2, 4.16) and sophomore Kris Benson (7-3, 4.24) are the top starters and junior Scott Winchester (5-2, 1.86, 10 saves) is the closer. Freshman catcher Matt LeCroy is the top newcomer.

## 10. WICHITA STATE

Coach Gene Stephenson enters his 18th season with an experienced club that is a cinch to contend for the national title. The Shockers boast one of the most talented teams in the country with junior third baseman Casey Blake (.323-5-46), senior shortstop Jason Adams (.326-4-42), senior outfielder Richie Taylor (.304-5-50) and junior catcher Adam McCollough (.305-5-24).

Junior Mike Drumright (10-4, 3.80) leads a rotation featuring senior lefthander Mike Brandley (10-2, 3.18 in 1993), a medical redshirt, and junior lefthander Travis Wycoff (4-2, 6.18).

## 11. MISSISSIPPI STATE

The Bulldogs missed the playoffs last year for the first time in seven seasons, but they had perhaps the best recruiting class in the nation and are considered a legitimate contender for a trip to Omaha in coach Ron Polk's 20th season.

"We have a nice mixture of very talented freshmen and very experienced players," Polk said. "I think we may be a year away from being a real strong contender for the national championship, but this club could certainly be very good."



Senior outfielder Ricky Joe Redd (.324-6-43), junior outfielder Scott Tribolet (.306-8-35) and junior reliever Scott Tanksley (2-3, 3.49, 13 saves) provide an experienced nucleus. Freshman infielder Brad Freeman (Oxford, Miss.) was a fourth-round draft pick by the Toronto Blue Jays, freshman infielder Adam Piatt (Ft. Myers, Fla.) was a 10th-round pick by the New York Mets and freshman lefthander Eric DuBose was selected in the sixth round by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

## 12. FLORIDA

Expectations are running high in Gainesville, where Andy Lopez, who guided Pepperdine to the 1992 national championship, has replaced Joe Arnold as head coach. Lopez inherits a team that had 16 underclassman but still finished 40-23 and advanced to the final of the Atlantic I Regional.

The Gators are led by senior outfielder James Eidam (.362-11-46), sophomore shortstop John Tamargo (.284-6-30) and junior reliever Danny Wheeler (13 saves).

## 13. CAL STATE-FULLERTON

The Titans lost all of their starting pitchers, including 12-game winner Matt Wagner because of eligibility problems, from a team that advanced to Omaha last season.

Coach Augie Garrido, in his 20th season at Fullerton, has a team that will be led by sophomore outfielder/pitcher Mark Kotsay (.372-4-35), sophomore outfielder Jeremy Giambi (.294-2-22) and senior first baseman D.C. Olsen (.277-5-26).

Junior Ted Silva (4-4, 2.29, 13 saves) may join a starting rotation that will also include junior Jon Ward (0-2, 3.67, 1 save), who had an outstanding fall.

Freshman C.J. Ankrum, a first baseman and outfielder who was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the eighth round, is the top newcomer.

## 14. OHIO STATE

The defending Big Ten Conference champion Buckeyes lost seven players to the draft from a team that finished 49-9 and 25-2 in the Big Ten. But coach Bob Todd still has senior catcher Brian Mannino (.363-14-59) and senior outfielder Scott Kaczmar (.378-18-61-10 SB).

Junior lefthanders Kevan Cannon (10-1, 3.64) and Mike Biehle (7-0, 4.60) anchor the pitching staff. Freshmen newcomers include catcher/first basemen Matt Buirley and Mike Kremblas and outfielder/first baseman Dan Seimet.

## 15. LONG BEACH STATE

Long Beach coach Dave Snow was a candidate for the job at Arizona State, but his return to the 49ers virtually guarantees a run at a berth in Omaha.

All-America pitcher Scott Rivette (14-1, 2.50) and junior lefthander Gabe Gonzalez (4-2, 1.24, 12 saves) anchor the pitching staff. Sophomore infielder Jeff Tagliaferri

## COLLEGE SPORTS PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR

# TODD HELTON, TENNESSEE

Todd Helton has a plan, one that should strike fear into the heart of any Southeastern Conference baseball coach who watched him dominate at the plate and on the mound last season. "I'm going to try and put everything together," said Helton, a 6-foot-2, 190-pound junior. "I need to keep my concentration from game to game through the whole season. I don't think I've done that too well the last two years."

It's difficult to imagine a more productive year than the one Helton had in 1994, when he was a consensus All America. As a first baseman at Tennessee, he batted .355 with seven home runs and a school-record 80 runs batted in. As a reliever, the lefthander compiled a 5-0 record with a 0.89 earned run average and 11 saves in 50½ innings. He also set an SEC record by pitching 47 consecutive scoreless innings.

"I don't think there's a player in the country that can beat you more ways than Todd can," Tennessee coach Rod Delmonico said. "He's the best hitter I have ever coached and he's established himself as one of the best closers in the country. The thing about Todd is, if he sets his mind to doing something, chances are he's going to get it done."

But Helton, who turned down a reported \$450,000 from the San Diego Padres after they selected him in the second round of the 1992 draft, knows what can happen to even the best-laid plans. That point was hammered home on the football field, where his hopes for a brilliant Volunteer football career got sidetracked by Heath Shuler.

Helton was an All-America quarterback at Central High School in Knoxville, where he passed for 1,904 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior. He turned down a scholarship offer from Alabama, where his brother had played, and enrolled at Tennessee. But with Shuler rising to national prominence, Helton saw very limited action for the Volunteers.

As a freshman, he played in only one game and did not attempt a pass. As a sophomore, he played in seven games and completed five of nine passes for 72 yards and two touchdowns. This past fall, with Shuler having become a millionaire with the Washington Redskins, Helton began the season as the No. 2 quarterback behind fifth-year senior Jerry Colquitt. Taking over after Colquitt went down in the first game, he had passed for 406 yards and two touchdowns before sustaining a season-ending sprained knee in the fourth



game against Mississippi State.

"Football hasn't turned out the way I wanted it to," Helton said. "When you get stuck behind a Heisman Trophy candidate, it kind of slows you down a little bit."

"But things happen for a reason. I was down when I got injured but I look at it as a blessing. My body has probably benefitted from it because I wasn't getting beat up every day in practice and games. I was able to start working on baseball and that should pay off this season."

It also figures to pay off in June when Helton, 20, is expected to be among the first players chosen in the baseball draft.

Before Helton begins his professional career, however, he intends to help the Volunteers make their first appearance in the College World Series. Tennessee hosted the Mideast Regional in 1993 and was eliminated by Fresno State. The Volunteers also hosted the Mideast Regional in 1994, but were ousted by Arizona State.

"We've had good years, but this program is through going to regional and getting beat," Helton said. "We're ready to step up. We're going to be in Omaha for the World Series." Plan on it.—GK





**Florida State K-meister Jonathan Johnson is the Seminoles' ace hurler.**

(.313-1-34), junior infielder Jeff Liefer (.282-5-50), senior catcher Kirk Pierce (.277-6-27) and senior infielder Tim Falsken (.276-3-20) are the top returning position players.

## 16. TEXAS

Cliff Gustafson became college baseball's all-time winningest coach last season and there is no reason to believe the Longhorns won't continue their winning ways in his 28th season.

Junior outfielder—and Longhorn star quarterback—Shea Morenz (.330-8-53), sophomore infielder Wylie Campbell (.294-1-29-26 SB), first baseman/outfielder Danny Peoples (.279-4-38) and senior outfielder Jerry Taylor (.264-8-44) are the top returning position players.

Senior Ryan Kjos (9-6, 3.03), junior J.D. Smart (11-4, 3.82) and junior Brian Cravey (2-1, 5.29) are the most experienced pitchers.

## 17. ARIZONA STATE

Pat Murphy, who built Notre Dame into a nationally recognized program, succeeds Jim Brock, who died last year after coaching the Sun Devils for 23 seasons.

First baseman Damon Lembi (.360-5-52), catcher Jake Steinkemper (.357-1-20) and middle infielder Randy Betten (.296-0-37) are the top returnees along with sophomore Cody McKay, who redshirted last year because of an arm injury.

Sophomore lefthander Jason Bond (7-2, 3.36), senior Billy Neal (9-5, 3.99) and sophomore Kaipo Spenser (10-0, 3.80) are the top pitchers.

Notre Dame transfers Robbie Kent (.402), a junior infielder, and Javier Fuentes (.375), a sophomore infielder, are among the newcomers.



# COLLEGE SPORTS PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

## FIRST TEAM

| POS. | PLAYER            | SCHOOL           | YEAR  | HT./WT.  | STATS                                    |
|------|-------------------|------------------|-------|----------|------------------------------------------|
| C    | A.J. Hinch        | Stanford         | Jr.   | 6-1/193  | .309, 7 HR, 36 RBI                       |
| 1B   | Todd Helton       | Tennessee        | Jr.   | 6-2/190  | .355, 7 HR, 80 RBI / 5-0, 0.89, 11 saves |
| 2B   | Mark Bellhorn     | Auburn           | Jr.   | 6-1/190  | .377, 5 HR, 39 RBI                       |
| SS   | Gabe Alvarez      | USC              | Jr.   | 6-1/185  | .326, 7 HR, 51 RBI                       |
| 3B   | Danny Buxbaum     | Miami (Fla.)     | Sr.   | 6-4/214  | .309, 18 HR, 67 RBI                      |
| OF   | Jose Cruz Jr.     | Rice             | Jr.   | 6-0/190  | .401, 14 HR, 68 RBI, 21 SB               |
| OF   | Shane Monahan     | Clemson          | Jr.   | 6-0/190  | .415, 11 HR, 53 RBI, 23 SB               |
| OF   | Darin Erstad      | Nebraska         | Jr.   | 6-2/195  | .317, 12 HR, 52 RBI                      |
| DH   | Geoff Jenkins     | USC              | Jr.   | 6-1/200  | .373, 15 HR, 47 RBI                      |
| P    | Jonathan Johnson  | Florida State    | Jr.   | 6-0/180  | 12-1, 3.17 ERA, 122 IP, 137 K            |
| P    | Jason Bell        | Oklahoma State   | Jr.   | 6-3 /195 | 14-2, 3.30 ERA, 128 IP, 140 K            |
| P    | R.A. Dickey       | Tennessee        | Soph. | 6-2/185  | 15-2, 3.00 ERA, 147 IP, 87 K             |
| P    | Jason Middlebrook | Stanford         | Soph. | 6-3/210  | 7-2, 2.54 ERA, 71 IP, 76 K               |
| P    | Scott Rivette     | Long Beach State | Jr.   | 6-2/195  | 14-1, 2.50 ERA, 111½ IP, 116 K           |

## SECOND TEAM

| POS. | PLAYER            | SCHOOL          | YEAR | HT./WT.  | STATS                                |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| C    | Carl Thompson     | Santa Clara     | Jr.  | 5-11/170 | .338, 9 HR, 64 RBI                   |
| 1B   | Doug Mientkiewicz | Florida State   | Jr.  | 6-2/205  | .344, 12 HR, 63 RBI                  |
| 2B   | Jesse Zepeda      | Oklahoma        | Jr.  | 5-10/160 | .331, 1 HR, 28 RBI, 19 SB            |
| SS   | Robert Harris     | Texas A&M       | Sr.  | 5-8/175  | .337, 7 HR, 41 RBI                   |
| 3B   | Casey Blake       | Wichita State   | Jr.  | 6-2/190  | .323, 5 HR, 46 RBI                   |
| OF   | Kevin Gibbs       | Old Dominion    | Sr.  | 6-2/180  | .436, 1 HR, 37 RBI                   |
| OF   | Ryan Christenson  | Pepperdine      | Jr.  | 5-11/180 | .341, 6 HR, 44 RBI, 28 SB            |
| OF   | Scott Kaczmar     | Ohio State      | Sr.  | 5-10/190 | .378, 18 HR, 61 RBI, 10 SB           |
| DH   | Peter Prodanov    | Oklahoma State  | Sr.  | 6-1/203  | .323, 9 HR, 76 RBI                   |
| P    | Mark Redman       | Oklahoma        | Jr.  | 6-5/215  | 14-3, 2.71 ERA, 135½ IP, 136 K       |
| P    | Matt Morris       | Seton Hall      | Jr.  | 6-5/210  | 5-5, 3.84 ERA, 77½ IP, 53 K          |
| P    | Phil Olson        | Florida State   | Jr.  | 6-3/225  | 5-4, 3.34 ERA, 4 saves, 64½ IP, 66 K |
| P    | Mike Drumright    | Wichita State   | Jr.  | 6-3/200  | 10-4, 3.80 ERA, 104½ IP, 104 K       |
| P    | Scott Schultz     | Louisiana State | Sr.  | 6-2/200  | 12-2, 3.26 ERA, 118½ IP, 131 K       |

## 18. PEPPERDINE

Pat Harrison, a former assistant at USC, Oral Roberts and Oklahoma, has replaced Andy Lopez in Malibu.

Junior outfielder Ryan Christenson (.341-6-44-28 SB) and junior first baseman Ruben Gamboa (.366-4-30) lead the Waves, who are also looking for a big year from senior infielder Dave Newhan (.239-4-23).

The key for the Waves will be the performance of junior pitchers Greg Gregory (5-4, 3.56) and Jason LeBlanc (4-4, 5.67), who struggled last season after outstanding freshmen seasons.

Top newcomers include freshman shortstop Kevin Workman (Spokane, Wash.) and third baseman Dennis Konrady, a transfer from Riverside Community College (Calif.).

## 19. AUBURN

The Tigers, under 16th-year coach Hal Baird, lost NCAA all-time strikeout king John Powell but a second consecutive trip

to Omaha is not out of the question.

All-America second baseman Mark Bellhorn (.377-5-39) and senior first baseman Jay Waggoner (.409-3-45) are the top returning position players. Seniors Kevin Humphreys (13-4, 3.66) and Chris Morrison (9-2, 4.17) anchor a staff that also includes junior Ryan Halla (9-5, 4.22).

## 20. MINNESOTA

John Anderson begins his 13th season with the Golden Gophers with a team that should challenge Ohio State for the Big Ten title after a second-place finish last year (43-18).

Junior catcher/first baseman Shane Gunderson (.356-16-50), senior outfielder Wes Denning (.317-2-33) and junior outfielder Shane McCarthy (.315-6-39) lead the offense. Senior lefthander Andy Hamerschmidt (6-3, 3.15) and junior Joel Westfall (6-4, 3.91) are the top pitchers. **CS**

Gary Klein is a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times.



# JAMIE IRVING

HARVARD

By ROGER BROWN

**W**hile most college baseball coaches are perplexed by pitching staff limitations, Harvard's Leigh Hogan has the unique luxury of options. In one pitcher alone—senior Jamie Irving—Hogan enjoys a full menu of possibilities. There's Irving the right-handed starter who can also be used as a reliever and be equally effective in either role. Then there's Irving, the left-handed starter/reliever combo. The 6-foot-5, 220-pound Crimson hurler truly can do it all, and with either arm. "The whole thing has been a bit of an adventure," Hogan said. "The biggest challenge is how to work both arms in terms of a pitcher's routine. It's somewhat complex to work both arms between starts."

Irving isn't ambidextrous in the classic sense. He's naturally right-handed, but he does play golf from both sides. He has made back-to-back starts with opposite arms twice in his college career. Once, during his freshman year, Irving even pitched with both arms in the same game as a relief pitcher for himself.

Rules allow a pitcher to change pitching arms with each new batter, but Irving said mechanics make it nearly impossible for him to switch arms in the middle of an inning. Although he has the same repertoire of pitches from each side, Irving prefers to throw left-handed.

"When I have all my pitches going, my left arm seems to be the one that's hardest to hit," said Irving, who throws harder right-handed (89 mph), but produces more movement on the baseball from the left side (82 mph).

Irving began pitching with both arms when he was about 9, after his father, Bruce, encouraged him to throw left-handed. Still, it wasn't until the summer before his sophomore year at Gulliver Prep in Miami, when Irving had surgery on his right elbow, that he really began to develop as a left-handed pitcher.

When it came time to pick a college, Harvard was the logical choice because Irving wanted to attend an Ivy League school and Hogan was open-minded about his pitching from both sides. "[Coach Hogan] said he didn't want to discourage me from doing anything and, in the end, I just decided to do something different," said Irving, whose father and brother, Rob, both pitched at Yale.

Different has always been the way for Irving, who pitched primarily right-handed his first two years at Harvard but was used mainly as a lefty last season. Harvard doesn't keep separate pitching statistics for each arm, but Irving's overall pitching record through three seasons is 10-11 with one save and an earned run average of 5.36. He has struck out 84 and walked 97 in 137 innings.

Irving enjoys pulling double-duty, as his special talent lets him take the mound twice as often as a normal pitcher. "It's just fun being out there more than anyone else," he said. "For me, it's better on my mind because I'm like practically anyone else—when you lose you just want to get back out there the next day or the day after that while other people have to wait."

That luxury is not without its price, however. For one, it requires extra work in practice, and last May, Irving had surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left elbow. His recovery has gone well and he expects to pitch with both arms this season. "We're going to have the same person again," Hogan said. "There's not a coach in the league who wouldn't want him on his staff." **CS**





**WORLD-CLASS  
LONG JUMPER  
KAREEM  
STREETE-  
THOMPSON  
HAS ONE LAST  
SHOT AT  
NCAA GLORY**

**By BERT  
ROSENTHAL**



**READY  
FOR  
LIFTOFF**

**W**hat healthy grade-school boy wouldn't dream of flying if he lived on an island where the sun shines all day and gentle Caribbean breezes rustle the trees? "They call the Caymans the islands that time forgot," Kareem Streete-Thompson said. "Sometimes, you forget what time of day it is, or even what day it is. It's very laid back."

Sure, the tropical Cayman Islands inspire some kids to dream of taking flight, but Streete-Thompson did much more. He took calculated, full-stride steps toward getting there. Now, he gets airborne regularly.

Blessed with ideal conditions nearly 365 days a year, Streete-Thompson began making a name for himself as a long jumper at age 14 as a star for a local track club. Less than seven years later, the Rice senior has lifted himself onto the world stage, defeating such childhood idols as world-record holder Mike Powell along the way.

Despite the wins over Powell, winning the 1994 USA indoor long jump title, five Southwest Conference long jump titles and having five jumps of more than 28 feet in 1994, there is still much for Streete-Thompson to prove. He has struggled mightily in international competition and has yet to finish higher than second in any NCAA championship. But he vows to make amends.

"At this point, my goals are a lot higher than winning the NCAAs," he said. "My goal is to break the NCAA record."

First the NCAAs, then the world.

**G**rowing up in the laid-back Cayman Islands, located about 150 miles northwest of Jamaica in the Caribbean Sea, has taught Streete-Thompson how to handle success with modesty. "I was always kept humble," he said. "People would say, 'There goes Kareem. Good job.' That was it."

Born in Ithaca, N.Y., Streete-Thompson moved to the Caymans with his parents—his father, Reginald Thompson, an electrician, and his mother, Valerie, a teacher—when he was just one month old. (Streete comes from his mother's name by a previous marriage).

Athletic success in the Caymans, measured as it was, meant competing internationally, and the opportunity to attend meets around the world was one reason Streete-Thompson got hooked on track. Early in his career, his club would compete in the United States, as well as other islands in the Caribbean. "At first, I saw it as a way to get out of school," Streete-Thompson said. "We would leave Friday about lunch time and get back Sunday night. I loved to travel."

It wasn't his enjoyment of travel, however, that earned him a place on the team. "You had to show that you could do it," Streete-Thompson said. "[Coach Jerry Harper] didn't take just anybody who wanted to get out of school. You had to



prove to him how good you were."

After two years of "getting kicked around," he made his initial statement as a 14 year old when he long-jumped 21 feet, 9 inches and won the Caribbean Junior Championship for athletes 17-and-under. He improved by more than a foot in each succeeding year during his career at Cayman Islands High School in George Town. As a senior in 1990, he jumped 26-5 at a meet in Orlando, Florida, establishing a Caribbean under-20 record that still stands, and ran a 10.4 in the 100 meters. That year, he also finished third in the World Junior Championships at 26-½.

Nevertheless, his achievements garnered little attention in the United States and college recruiters ignored him. He wrote letters to several big-name colleges but received no replies. Finally, browsing through a college catalogue, he discovered Rice, applied and was accepted. At first, he majored in engineering, but after two difficult years he switched to political science. Now, when he graduates in May, he's considering going to law school or practicing international law.

More likely, though, his first international concern will be the world track circuit. He plans to compete for the United States (he has dual citizenship) in the 1995 World Outdoor Championships at Goteborg, Sweden, and the 1996 Summer Olympics at Atlanta.

"He has a lot of potential," Rice coach Steve Straub said. "In the next 10 years, I think you will see some unbelievable things from him. I think he will be as good as Powell and [Carl] Lewis."

The breakthrough occurred last summer. On June 7, 1994, in Innsbruck, Austria, Streete-Thompson broke Powell's two-year, 34-meet winning streak, beating him 27-4 to 27-3½. "I couldn't believe it," Streete-Thompson said. "That was total euphoria. Since my jump wasn't that great, I expected he would come back. Everyone knows how he builds as the competition goes along. He usually has his best jumps on his fifth or sixth attempts."

This time, however, Powell fell short by one-quarter inch and Streete-Thompson had done something that no long jumper had since Lewis beat Powell at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. "That victory set up my whole season," Streete-Thompson said. "After that, I wasn't afraid of competing against the legend Mike Powell anymore."

"He's going to be a force to contend with for a long time," Powell said. "He's starting to use his speed and it's showing."

A week after outjumping a legend at the USA Championships in Knoxville, Tenn., Streete-Thompson saw the Powell mystique return. With Streete-Thompson leading after five rounds with a wind-aided 28-4½—his longest jump ever under any conditions—Powell leaped 28-5½ on his final attempt to win his fourth national title in five years.

Undaunted, a confident Streete-Thompson then went to Linz, Austria, on the Fourth of July and celebrated in style. On

three of his four legal jumps, he surpassed his previous best of 27-7½, including a winning effort of 28-3½, making him history's 10th legal 28-footer in the long jump and putting him No. 7 on the all-time performers' list. Two days later in Lausanne, Switzerland, Streete-Thompson and Powell matched up in another classic battle, but this time Kareem didn't even need to jump 28 feet to beat Powell. He did it with a leap of 27-11, as Powell finished second with a wind-aided 27-6½.

"I wasn't intimidated," Streete-Thompson said. "At that point, I said, 'This is a dream season.' It was more than I had expected. I had come into the season planning to jump 28 feet. I wanted to get past the 27-foot barrier. If I could get up to 28 feet, I felt that would set me up for the World Championships and the Olympics."

**T**he victories over Powell and his five jumps of 28 feet foreshadow a tremendous year for Streete-Thompson. "Now that he has jumped 28 feet, we think 29 feet is well within his range," coach Straub said. "That is, if he corrects a few things. One problem is he has a tendency to watch the [takeoff] board, and sometimes he winds up in a poor position to jump off it. His sprinting also improved greatly. He's a sub-10 [second] sprinter, but he hasn't done it yet. His best is 10.19."

"Despite the negatives, though, he's progressed very well. He's very coachable—easy in terms of being affable and listening. But he's also stubborn, and to get him to change is not easy because it's ingrained in his head. He's also emotional, which can be good and bad. He has to learn to control his emotions."

At times, emotions have gotten the better of Streete-Thompson. He's had his moments in the sun, but when the world spotlight is on, he's shown a tendency to turn off. At the 1991 World Championships he was awed by the thought of competing against Lewis and Powell and failed to qualify for the final. In 1992, he represented the Cayman Islands in the Barcelona Olympics in the long jump and 100 but, overwhelmed by the pressure and the array of talent, he failed to make the finals in the long jump and didn't advance past the first round in the 100.

"I had so much adrenaline going, I couldn't control it," Streete-Thompson said. "I pressed every time I came down the

runway. I was just happy to be there."

In 1993, he changed his national affiliation and hopes to compete for the United States in future championships and Olympics. Now he hopes to make the U.S. team—no small feat considering he'll be competing against Powell, Lewis, Erick Walder, Roland McGhee and possibly 1992 Olympic triple-jump gold medalist Michael Conley in the long jump. The sprint field also will be loaded, with Lewis, Leroy Burrell, Dennis Mitchell, Jon Drummond and Andre Cason, among others.



His five jumps of more than 28 feet last summer placed Streete-Thompson among the world's elite.

Certainly, Streete-Thompson's best chance will be in the long jump. He was ranked No. 4 in the world for 1993 and probably will be ranked No. 2 for 1994.

"It's possible one day he can break the world record," said Wen Yong Yang, who coaches the jumpers at Rice.

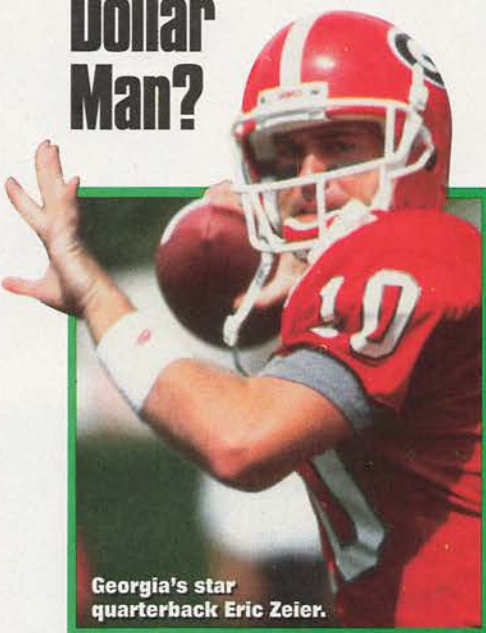
For Streete-Thompson, records are not only possible; they're his mission. "In 1995, I'm planning on 29 feet," he said. "I'm not making any promises, but I think 30 feet in the future is possible." **CS**

Bert Rosenthal covers track for the Associated Press.



# IN THE HUDDLE

## Who's the Real Six Million Dollar Man?



Georgia's star quarterback Eric Zeier.

### SOUTHEAST

He has thinning hair and is called "EZ." He owns almost every Southeastern Conference passing mark worth owning, mainly because he returned for his senior season after NFL types told him a year ago that he would be a third- to fifth-round selection. He was a Heisman Trophy candidate this past season whose gawdy numbers were

overshadowed by the uninspiring figures in his team's win column.

Even so, **GEORGIA** quarterback Eric Zeier is one hot Dawg. Florida coach Steve Spurrier, a former Heisman Trophy winning quarterback, said Zeier was simply "one of the best passers to ever play the game."

No wonder. Zeier was a quick—and early—learner. Zeier's father, Rick, was in the Army and moved his family nine times in 17 years. When the Zeiers were stationed in Germany in 1972, Rick said the only thing on television was the Munich Olympics and the television show, "The Six Million Dollar Man."

Rick Zeier's theory is that his son watched and mimicked a lot of great athletes as well as the bionic movements of rebuilt TV astronaut Steve Austin. As a result, Eric liked to prance around the house in slow motion, emulating the perfect physical techniques he was seeing on television.

"Even at 1 or 2 years old, when he'd run around the house, he understood correct body control," Rick Zeier said.

His competitive streak had an equally early start. At age 5, he was beaten in the board game "Candyland" by his mother, Sharon. With a swipe by Eric, the game flew across the room in one direction and Eric stormed off in the other. About an hour later, Eric returned and asked for a rematch. They played and played until son finally beat mother.

### LONG DAY'S JOURNEY

When Cuban dictator Fidel Castro allowed emigration for a short time in 1980, a son and his mother were assigned to a small shrimp boat to become two of the approximately 25,000 people to come to the United States. Though the ship's maximum capacity was 200, there were probably twice that many people on board.

At that time, **FLORIDA STATE** offensive lineman Jesus Hernandez was 8 years old. His mother, Idalia Sanabria, held a good job in Cuba but decided life would be better in the United States. Although the distance between Mariel, Cuba, and Key West, Fla., is only 90 miles, the journey took them nearly 18 hours.

But that's not the nightmare that Hernandez still recalls. Before he and his mother were to board, a family behind them, including a terminally ill child seeking medical care in the United States, begged for their seats, hoping to get to Florida quicker. Sanabria obliged and two hours later she and Jesus left on another boat.

Since their vessel was bigger, Hernandez and his mother caught up to the boat on which they gave up their seats. Before their eyes, it capsized under violent waves.

"You saw it go right into the sea," said Hernandez, who still gets emotional in the retelling. "It had no chance. Nobody survived." —Jim Henry

### WEST

### GO FISH!

The rock is what bounces around **ARIZONA**'s McKale Center during basketball season. The Rock is the Tucson club where Wildcat kicker Steve McLaughlin jams.

McLaughlin, among the best in the west at his position, is also lead singer of the band Pet the Fish. The name came from a religious song, but the music is alternative rock, a cross between Gin Blossoms and R.E.M.

Because of NCAA rules that prevent scholarship athletes from working during the academic year, Pet the Fish, which includes Arizona linebacker Joe Lohmeier on guitar, has performed just one concert—a charity event—after a summer full of gigs. Now that the season is over and McLaughlin and Lohmeier have finished their college eligibility, the band will start playing for audiences again.

Music is McLaughlin's hobby, his escape. McLaughlin's priority, though, is giving the NFL his best shot. Both worlds will come together when Arizona coach Dick Tomey, 56, makes good on his vow to show up at a club to see Pet the Fish.

"I have so much respect for him, I'll probably feel kind of silly jumping around on stage," McLaughlin said.

**TEEN IDOL** Before **UCLA** punter Darren Schager made his mark on the football field, he was just a hopeful walk-on whose only notoriety came from a publication that could care less about hang time: *Teen Magazine*.

Two reporters showed up at **UCLA**'s practice one day, picked out Schager and proceeded to grill him on subjects vital to their readers. Does he prefer girls with long or short hair? A lot or a little makeup? What type of perfume? What about jewelry? And clothes?

When the issue hit the mailboxes of teen-age girls everywhere, Schager suffered much grief. "The culmination was Nicole Donahue," Schager, now a senior, said of **UCLA** coach Terry Donahue's eldest daughter. "She said, 'Yeah, my younger sister gets that magazine. I showed my dad.'" —M.A.





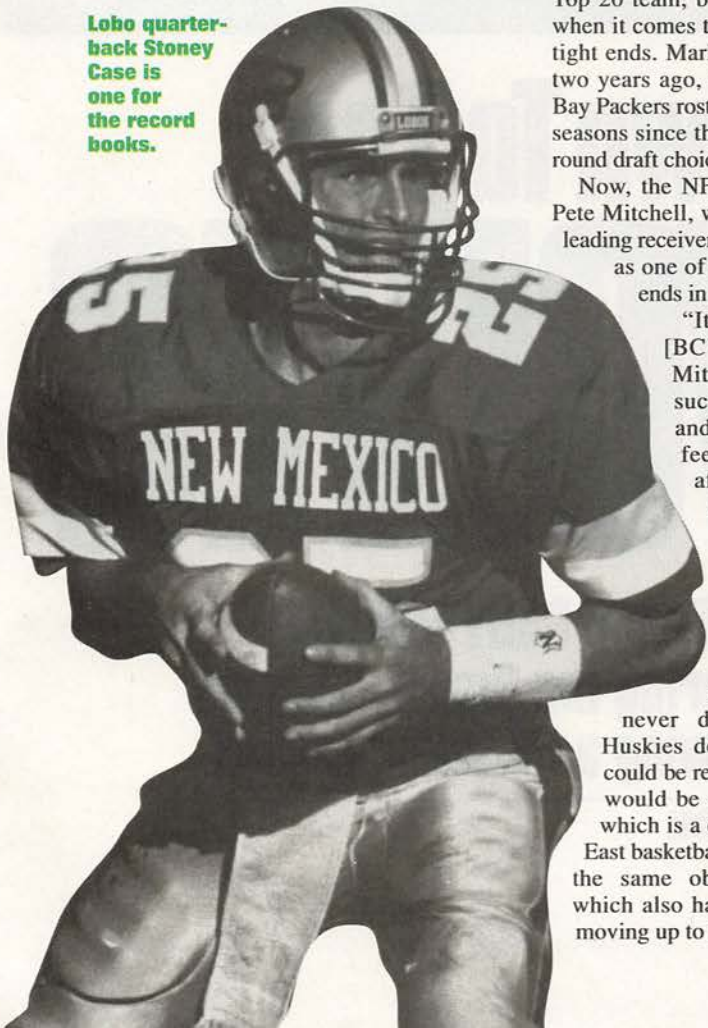
**Pete Mitchell is the latest of Boston College's NFL-bound tight ends.**

## MAKING HIS CASE

NEW MEXICO's Stoney Case became the first Division I-A player to throw for more than 8,000 yards in his career and rush for more than 1,000. Case, a senior pre-med major named after the 1960s television character, Stoney Burke, operated a versatile offense capable of innumerable sets. Against Texas Christian, he threw 62 times. Against Fresno State, he threw only 14 times, but rushed for 113 yards.

Case, whose brother, Stormy, also played at New Mexico, became a starter in the middle of his freshman year. He's from Permian High School in Odessa, Texas, the

**Lobo quarterback Stoney Case is one for the record books.**



prep powerhouse featured in the book *Friday Night Lights*. The book covered the 1988 season, when Case was a reserve. A year later, wearing No. 25, a school tradition for quarterbacks, he led the team to a state championship.

Case has several medical school applications out, but hopes a pro team will take a chance on a quarterback from a program that has had one winning season (1993) in 12 years. "All I need is an opportunity to get my foot in the door," Case said. "Pro scouts go a lot of places nobody knows about." —Mark Alesia

## EAST

### TIGHT-WIRE TO THE TOP

BOSTON COLLEGE might not be a perennial Top 20 team, but the Eagles do just fine when it comes to turning out NFL-caliber tight ends. Mark Chmura, BC's tight end two years ago, is currently on the Green Bay Packers roster, having survived for two seasons since the Pack made him a sixth-round draft choice in 1992.

Now, the NFL awaits 6-2, 238-pound Pete Mitchell, who became BC's all-time leading receiver last season and is regarded as one of the top picks among tight ends in this spring's draft.

"It's great to be a part of [BC's tight end lineage]," Mitchell said. "Mark was such a great player, athlete and friend. I hope the guys feel the same way about me after I leave as I feel about Mark."

### UConn JOB

CONNECTICUT continues to toy with the idea of elevating its football program to I-A status, although the Huskies have never dominated I-AA. If the Huskies do follow that route (they could be ready by 1997), the Big East would be obligated to take UConn, which is a charter member of the Big East basketball league. The Big East has the same obligation to VILLANOVA, which also has flirted with the idea of moving up to I-A. —Mark Blaudschun

**TD-2** Sons follow in the footsteps of their fathers all the time. But consider the plight of Anthony Dorsett Jr., who just finished his junior season at Pitt. His father's shoes belong to Anthony Dorsett Sr., who happens to be Tony Dorsett, the Hall of Fame former running back for the Dallas Cowboys and an All America who led the Pitt Panthers to the 1977 national championship. Luckily for the younger Dorsett, he is a defensive back and can somewhat escape the shadow of Pitt's all-time leading rusher and the second-leading rusher in NCAA history. —M.B.



## MIDWEST

### THE HATFIELDS AND THE BROYLES

RICE coach Ken Hatfield said he left Arkansas after the 1989 season for reasons other than just wanting to coach at Clemson. Hatfield bolted Clemson after the 1993 season after a stormy relationship with fans and administration.

Recently, Hatfield has revealed that his six years at Arkansas, which included two Cotton Bowl trips and a 55-17 record, were spent with Frank Broyles, the school's athletic director, constantly second-guessing him.

"He'd go look at film all the time, talking to our coaches, going to our offices—things I didn't know about," Hatfield said. "It was obvious he wanted to coach."

When Broyles, who retired as Arkansas' coach in 1976, was told of Hatfield's remarks, he refused to get into a verbal spat. "Well, I would say I was surprised, but he's said this before," Broyles said.

### A BOWL PARLAY

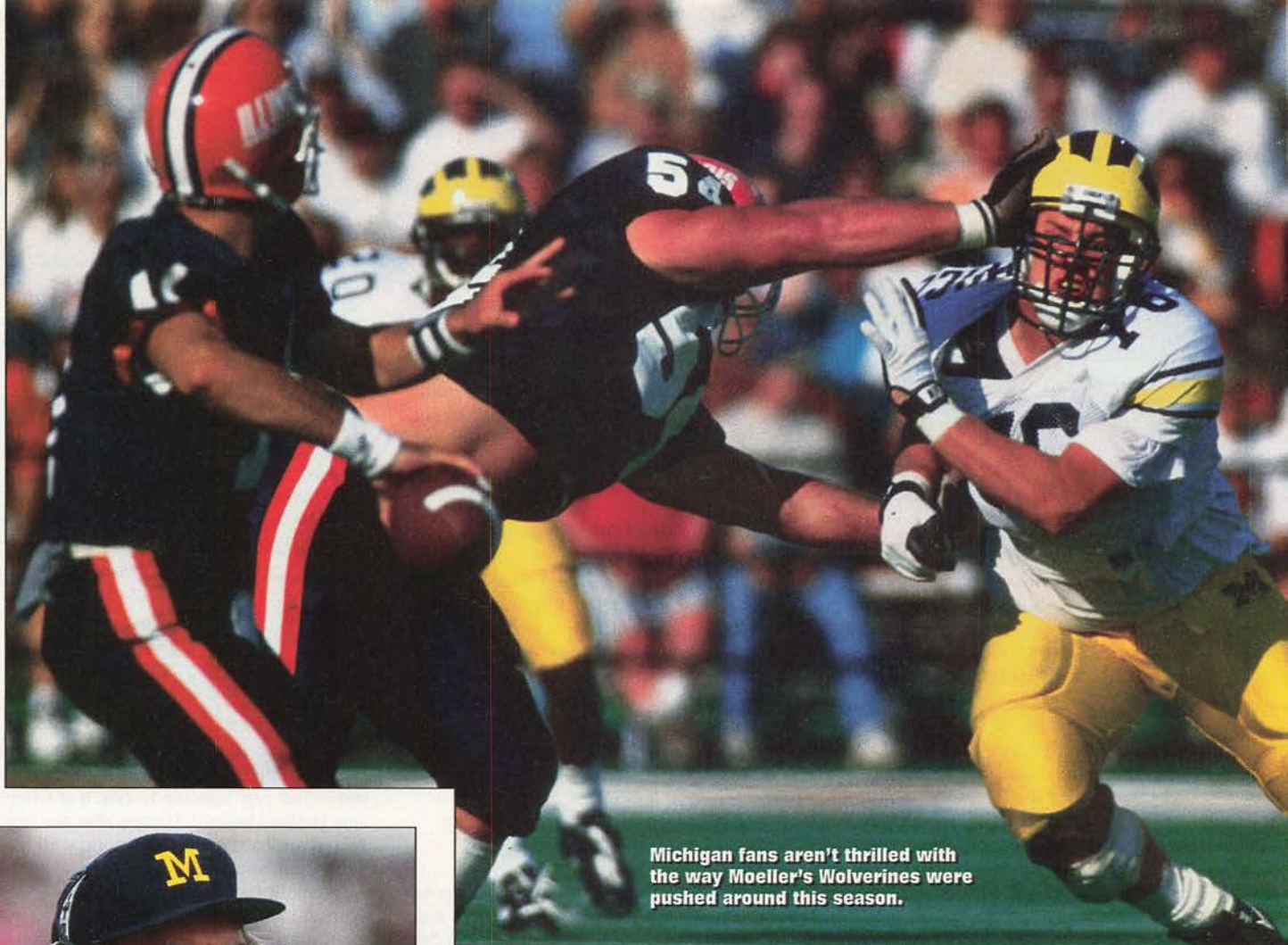
The new Big 12 Conference, beginning play in 1996 when TEXAS, TEXAS A&M, TEXAS TECH and BAYLOR join the current Big Eight, already is flexing its muscle in the postseason bowl scene. Contracts have been signed that would send half the league to bowls.

The Big 12's champion will go to the Tier I Bowl Alliance (either the Fiesta, Sugar or Orange), its No. 2 team to the Cotton in Dallas, No. 3 to the Holiday in San Diego, No. 4 to the Alamo in San Antonio, No. 5 to the Copper in Tucson and No. 6 to the Aloha in Honolulu.

The Big 12's bowl lineup is the best in college football. The next best is the Big Ten, which will put teams in five bowls: the Rose, Citrus, Hall of Fame, Alamo and Sun.

The Big 12 figures to realize about \$14.5 million each year from its bowl contracts, headed by a hefty \$8 million-plus from the Tier I Alliance. —Steve Richardson CS





Michigan fans aren't thrilled with the way Moeller's Wolverines were pushed around this season.



# Thrown To The WOLVES

Michigan Coach **GARY MOELLER**  
Is Discovering the Rigors Involved  
With Following a Coaching Legend

By STEVE KORNACKI





Once upon a time, Joe Paterno and Tom Osborne were low-profile assistants promoted to replace coaching legends. Paterno surpassed Rip Engle in Happy Valley years ago, but Osborne is just now, in his 22nd season, drawing even with Bob Devaney in Cornhusker lore.

It took them years to become nationally—and, more important, locally—acknowledged as top coaches, something not lost on another coach struggling with the move from top assistant to top billing, Michigan's Gary Moeller. "Osborne has never been accepted for the coach he is until just lately," Moeller said.

Moeller does not envy Osborne's fate, nor does he hope to repeat it. But the fact remains that, five years after replacing Bo Schembechler, Moeller, 53, has gained little recognition outside the Midwest and little credit within the state. Heading into last season, there was a growing sentiment that he was better than Schembechler, but now the talk-show grippers say he's no Schembechler. "The expectations here at Michigan are so high, too, and I like them like that. But you never get completely accepted," Moeller said.

The Wolverines were ranked in the Top 10 early this year, but losses to Colorado, Penn State and, worst of all, Wisconsin in the first eight games assured the season wouldn't be stamped a success. Michigan had also expected to challenge for the national title in 1993, but ended up in the Hall

of Fame Bowl and with a final record of 8-4.

Maybe Moeller spoiled the Michigan fans at the start. He won three straight Big Ten championships, went to two Rose Bowls, and even won in his second trip to Pasadena. Bo didn't win until his sixth. Moeller's 1991 squad featured Desmond Howard, Michigan's first Heisman Trophy winner since Tom Harmon in 1940, and Erick Anderson, the school's first Butkus Award winner.

But, nowadays, those glories seem like long ago. The tough losses and toughest schedule in the land have taken a toll on Moeller. The 31-19 loss to Wisconsin seemed to burn a deeper hole in his soul than those from any other season. Moeller has experienced other heartbreaking defeats in five seasons as head coach. But something was different this year, and his mentor, Schembechler, noticed the change.

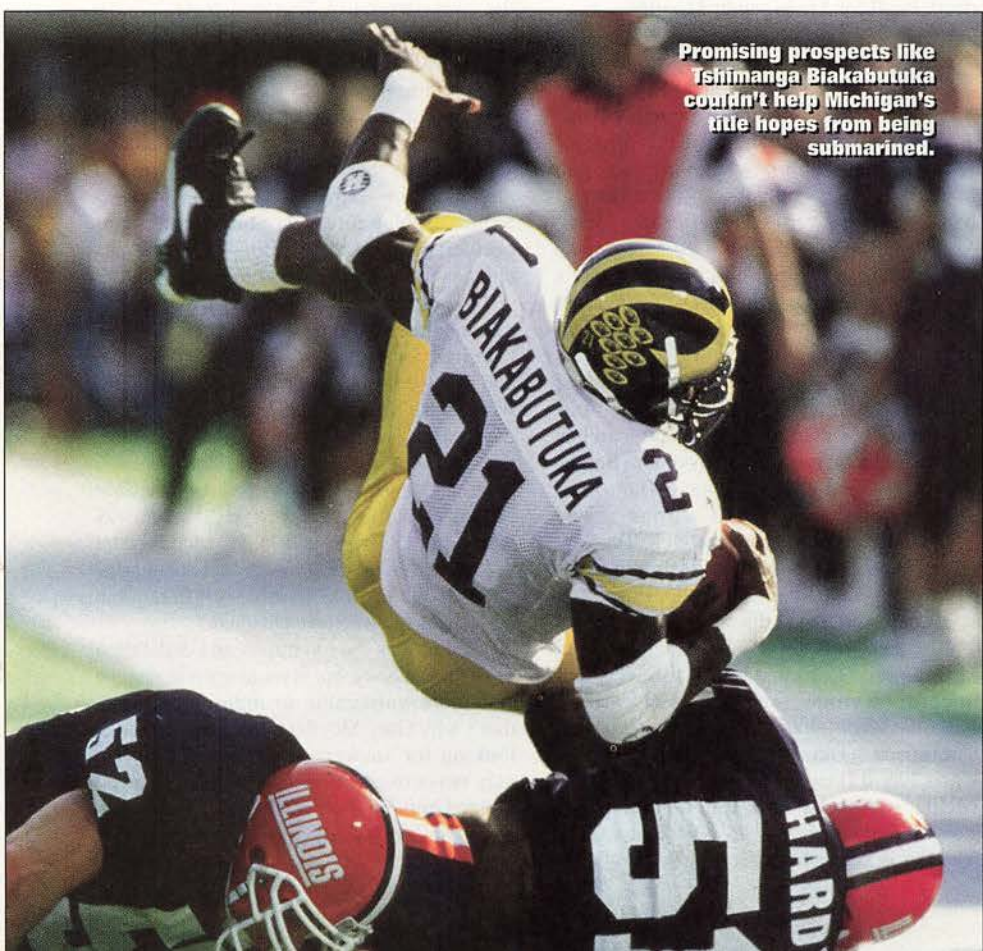
"I'm very much concerned with how hard Gary takes the losses this year," Schembechler said. "I think he gets too down. Now, a loss kicks the crap out of you. I know that. But I don't like what he's doing to himself." The observation was relayed to Moeller, and he paused to purse his lips. "It's just too hard to lose games like this," Moeller said. "You work so hard, you search yourself for solutions. . . . You just keep trying to find out why. You learn more from defeat than victory."

Moeller doesn't intend to change, though. The loss on the "Hail Mary" pass to Colorado and the failed final drives that doomed the Wolverines against Penn State have stayed with him longer than an unwanted guest. Maybe the great tease from early in the past season was what made falling short so hard to take.

Back in Week 2, Michigan beat Notre Dame with a frantic final drive and Remy Hamilton's 42-yard field goal with two seconds left. The next week, the Wolverines were drilling Colorado, up by two touchdowns and 12 minutes away from establishing themselves as serious national championship contenders. But they lost on a tipped 64-yard desperation pass from Kordell Stewart to Michael Westbrook as time expired.

Michigan recovered to beat Iowa and destroy Michigan State, rebuilding hopes of a special season. But then Penn State pulled away in the final minutes on a wide-open touchdown pass from Kerry Collins to Bobby Engram.

That game wasn't over, though, and the Wolverines drove past midfield. Todd Collins nearly completed a bomb to Amani Toomer a few yards short of the goal line. "Did you see the end-zone shot of the play?" Moeller asked. "I couldn't believe Amani didn't even get a piece of the ball until I saw it. The wind blew it away from him on the way down. Now, if that had happened at Notre Dame, everyone would say Touchdown Jesus was involved."



Promising prospects like Tshimanga Biakabutuka couldn't help Michigan's title hopes from being submarined.



# THROWN TO THE WOLVES



**A longtime Michigan assistant, Moeller is feeling the heat as the top man.**

Such comments reveal the root of Moeller's frustration. There was no way to explain those losses. There was nothing in the playbook, nothing on the film that can rationalize fate. So he internalized the games and it tied him in knots.

Moeller, who played center and line-backer for Woody Hayes and captained the 1962 Ohio State team, doesn't have the public temper of Schembechler, but behind closed doors he can swing with Bo or Woody. Moeller punched and destroyed a blackboard at a team meeting the morning of the Michigan State game. "That wasn't that big a thing," said Moeller.

Perhaps not, but it was reflective of the pressure Moeller has felt since his first days at Michigan. "He wanted to accomplish so much—all that Bo did—and he wanted to do it all in one year," said Elvis Grbac, currently a backup quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers who was a backup for the Wolverines when Moeller took over. "It was really difficult. You could tell he was nervous."

"He's under the microscope at that job because of the alumni in the U.S. and around the Michigan area," Grbac said.

"They've gotten to the point where they expect winning seasons year-in and year-out, and if you have one or two losses, it seems like a bad year."

The Wisconsin loss followed the Penn State disappointment and Moeller quickly became a target, more so on radio talk shows than in the print media. He hasn't lashed out, but he believes the criticism from losing has been far greater than the credit he received from winning Big Ten championships each of his first three seasons.

"I admit that's true," Moeller said. "But, today, if you're in the public eye, you're going to get criticized like never before. Make that critiqued; that's a better word. There are more experts, more talk shows. Everyone's a critic these days. . . . Now, I'm not feeling sorry for myself, but I feel sorry for all the negative things kids have to hear today."

Moeller said no single game or season should be the criteria for judging a coach. "Penn State was 7-5 two years ago, lost two games last year, and now has a great team," Moeller said. "But people don't look at what they got through to get there."

"Now, I want to win all the time, too, and nothing should change that," he said. "But there's other important things, like doing it right. Whether you like the coach or not, is it a good experience for the players?"

Criticism is leveled and reputations are earned based on the bottom line, though, and Michigan has lost more of late than normal. The defense has become a particular concern, and the offense is good but no longer great. Still, that hardly signals the death knell for Michigan or Moeller.

**M**oeller, who has three full seasons left on a contract that pays over \$400,000 in total benefits, isn't going anywhere. Like him or loathe him, what you see with Moeller is what you get—and that isn't so bad. In fact, it's very good; after four years, Moeller was 36-9-3, only two fewer wins than Bo had at that point in his career. He's built his program with better national recruiting than Schembechler, a Midwestern-centered recruiter.

*SuperPrep* magazine ranked each of Moeller's first five classes in the top four nationally. His biggest national catches have been receivers Amani Toomer (Berkeley, Calif.), center Rod Payne (Miami), inside linebacker Jarrett Irons (The Woodlands, Texas), cornerback Ty Law (Aliquippa, Pa.), and outside linebackers Trevor Pryce (Lake Howell, Fla.) and Rasheed Simmons (Edison, N.J.).

Moeller didn't forget about the Michigan kids, either. He signed preseason Heisman hopeful Tyrone Wheatley (Dearborn Heights Robichaud), safety Clarence Thompson (Detroit King) and tailback Chris Floyd (Detroit Cooley). "Bo Schembechler was great," said Tom Lemming, editor of *Prep Football Report*, "but Gary Moeller is better [as a recruiter]. The talent

in the Midwest is down over the past 10 years, and Michigan is the only one in the Big Ten able to recruit nationally. They even beat Notre Dame to the top kids now."

Wheatley appeared headed for Michigan State, which didn't have the stable of backs Michigan had and was also his favorite team as a kid. But Moeller landed him instead. "I became sold on Michigan after a long talk with Coach Moeller," Wheatley said. "He was really impressed with me as a person and has been close to me ever since."

The critics point to the superior talent and the mediocre record and shake their heads. It doesn't add up. Moeller's challenge is to recapture the excitement of his first three seasons. He began in 1990 by putting Schembechler's option offense on the shelf and scrapping the wishbone formation altogether. He opened a pro-style attack with play-action passing and a no-huddle offense. He finally let the defense loose in 1992 with an attacking front and more man-to-man coverage and blitzes.

"I still consider Bo the greatest coach I've ever had as far as teaching," Grbac said. "But after Bo left, our offense got a lot better. We threw a lot more and the no-huddle was good for putting points on the board."

There were two plays that defined Moeller as his own man: first, the fourth-and-inches touchdown pass from Grbac to Howard against Notre Dame in 1991 that resulted in a diving 25-yard touchdown catch. "Everyone was bragging on what an innovator Gary was after that play," Schembechler said. "They loved the excitement of the unpredictability. That was great."

Second, the decision to go for the win against Michigan State in 1990. Never mind that Michigan lost, 28-27, when a controversial two-point conversion pass went incomplete against the Spartans. It excited the school's fans that Moeller didn't play it safe and kick the extra point for the tie—as Schembechler surely would have. Schembechler, then the athletic director, knows his choice of a successor was correct.

"I really wanted him to be successful because he was my man," Schembechler said. "He has complete knowledge of the game and is very bright, very intense, and a hard worker. He's well-organized and a hands-on coach. He's not an arm-folder. But, of course, everyone complains when you lose a few."

"Gary's a very good college coach because he gets across to his players in different way than Bo did," Grbac said. "Gary relates better to kids in the '90s. Bo was an old-school disciplinarian; Gary has some of that in him but he realizes players have changed."

Moeller has the toughness and dedication of Bo and Woody, but is more open to change and more vulnerable to opinion. Perhaps that's why Gary Moeller continues to evolve, looking for answers and ways to win. He may never reach 200 wins like the men who molded him, but how many have? **CS**

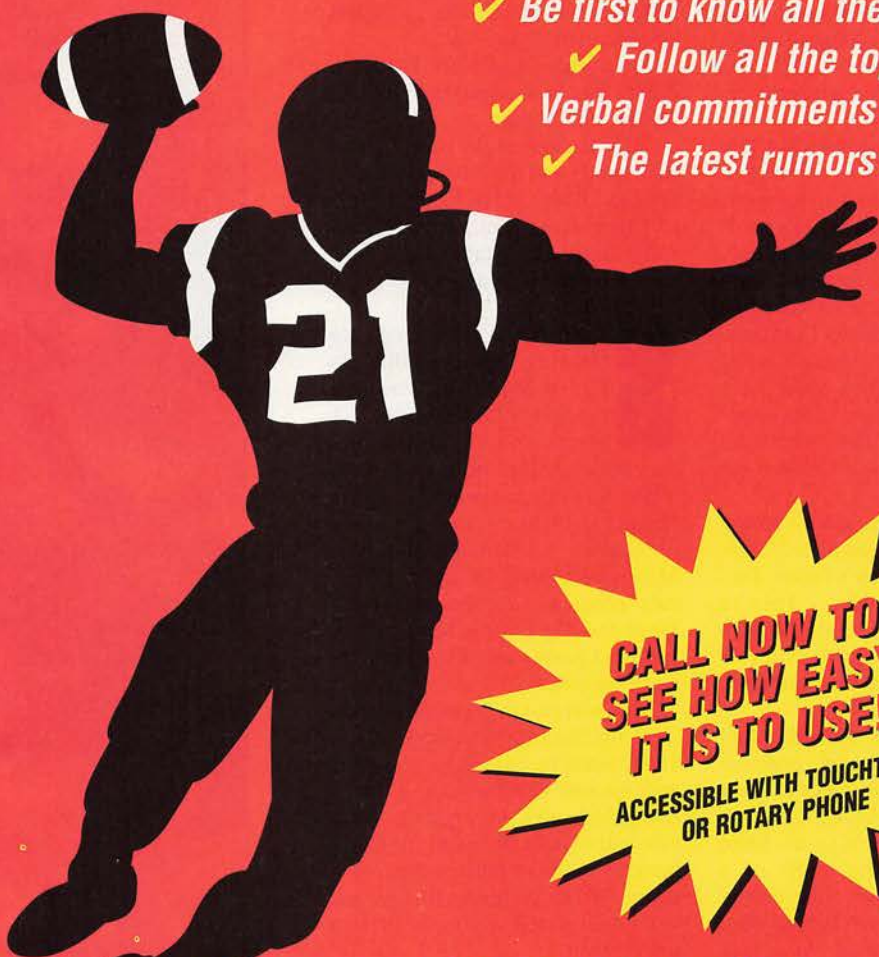
Steve Kornacki is a staff writer for the Detroit Free Press.



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# MAY DAZE

## KANSAS STATE QUARTERBACK CHAD MAY'S METEORIC RISE HAS LEFT OPPONENTS SPINNING

By TOM PERRIN



**A**t the time, Chad May had a choice. But he really didn't. Not if he wanted to display his passing skills as a major-college quarterback, anyway. Following May's freshman season at Cal State-Fullerton in 1991, he was told by coach Gene Murphy that the Titans would be switching to an option-oriented offense the next year. May, a passer first and a runner second, was not interested.

Even though it would take him away from his family in nearby Upland, Calif.—and cost him a year of eligibility since he already had red-shirted in 1990—May immediately decided to transfer. North Carolina, East Carolina and Northeast Louisiana all showed interest, along with Kansas State. May didn't know much about Kansas State, other than that it wasn't known for football.

"I said, 'What's wrong with Kansas State?,'" recalled May's father, Jim. "He said, 'They're losers.' I said, 'Wait a minute, Chad. They're winning some ballgames back there.'"

Indeed, Jim May had taken notice of a program on the rise. Once dubbed "Futility U" by *Sports Illustrated*, Kansas State was in the midst of a remarkable turnaround under coach Bill Snyder,

who led the Wildcats to a 7-4 record and fourth place in the Big Eight in 1991.

Once May visited Kansas State, he saw and heard enough to know he had found a new home. No other visits were necessary. Snyder's pitch was that convincing.

After watching from the sidelines in 1992, May became the starting quarterback in 1993 as a junior and led the Wildcats to a 9-2-1 record

and a victory in the Copper Bowl. He was named the first-team All-Big Eight quarterback by conference coaches, ahead of Colorado's Kordell Stewart and Nebraska's Tommie Frazier. With prototypical size (6-foot-2, 220 pounds), arm strength and savvy, May is considered a possible first-round NFL draft pick and a near-certain future star.

Meanwhile, Cal State-Fullerton dropped its football program following the 1992 season.

"It was the best decision I could have made and the best decision of my life," May said of his relocation to Manhattan, Kan., where long-suffering Wildcats fans finally have something to cheer about.

**S**nyder deserves the credit for bringing respectability to Kansas State, which became the first NCAA Division I-A program to lose 500 games the season before he took over in 1989. No college football coach in recent years has scripted a more miraculous turnaround. But it is May whose talents made the Wildcats program one that can challenge the Big Eight's best, qualify for bowl games and attract nationwide attention.

May was cast in the national spotlight for the first time on Oct. 16, 1993, when he passed for a conference-record 489 yards in a 45-28 loss at Nebraska. May had the Wildcats within three points of the Cornhuskers in the middle of the fourth quarter before Nebraska finally took over and added a couple of late touchdowns.

In the next two weeks, the Wildcats would tie Colorado and beat Oklahoma. May threw for four touchdowns and ran for another in those two games. He finished the season with 2,682 passing yards, a Kansas State record and the third-best total in Big Eight history.

Despite a growing reputation and defenses being geared to shut him down, May posted impressive num-









## MAY DAZE

bers again in 1994. In two nationally televised games, he passed for 379 yards against Kansas and 356 against Colorado.

"He reminds me of the Chuck Longs and Jim Everetts I used to see in the Big Ten," said Kansas coach Glen Mason, a former Ohio State assistant.

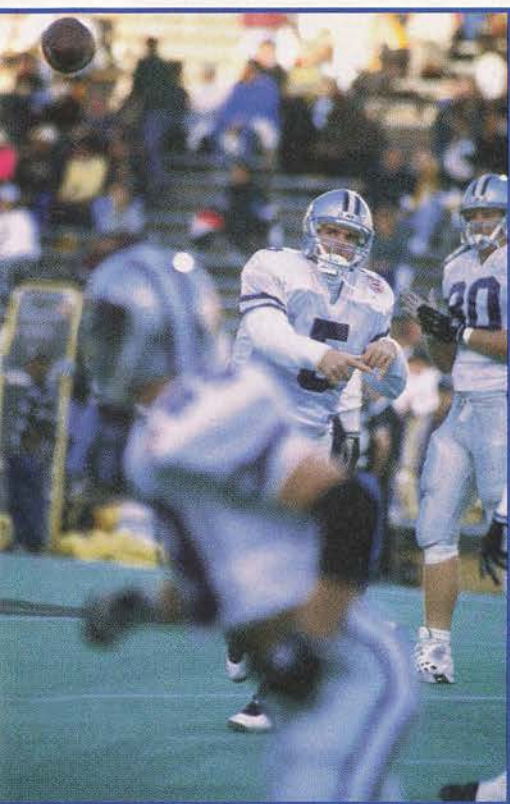
Even Snyder, normally hesitant about lavishing excessive praise on players, compares May to former Iowa stars Long and Chuck Hartlieb, both of whom he coached as a Hawkeye assistant from 1979-'88.

May wasn't impressive statistically as a Cal State-Fullerton freshman, but Snyder was able to draw some conclusions about him by watching film. One, May had a rifle arm. Two, he could take a beating. A porous offensive line left May on his back on a regular basis during a 2-9 season when the Titans were outscored, 376-138. "I knew he was going to be tough-minded," Snyder said.

Snyder found out precisely how tough when May engineered last-minute scoring drives in the Colorado tie and a season-ending victory at Oklahoma State in '93.

May can scramble for yardage when trouble comes, but he's not afraid to stay in the pocket until the last second and take a hit to complete a pass. It doesn't hurt that he's solid enough to absorb a lot of the punishment and come back for more.

So in-synch were coach and quarterback that Snyder often gave May the green light for virtually entire games to call his own plays from the line of scrimmage. Teammates describe May as cocky, and watching him on the field does nothing to dispel this



**Chad May's decision to transfer to Kansas State was right on target.**

## HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL

Following in the footsteps of NFL quarterbacks Troy Aikman (Oklahoma-UCLA), Jeff George (Purdue-Illinois), and Dan McGwire (Iowa-San Diego State), the following college passers found success only after transferring from their original school.

| PLAYER         | CURRENT SCHOOL   | ORIGINAL SCHOOL                        |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Darrell Bevell | Wisconsin        | Northern Arizona                       |
| Mike Cawley    | James Madison    | Syracuse                               |
| Chad Davis     | Washington State | Oklahoma                               |
| Chad May       | Kansas State     | Cal State-Fullerton                    |
| Mike McCoy     | Utah             | Long Beach State                       |
| Garrick McGee  | Oklahoma         | Arizona State (via NE Oklahoma A&M JC) |
| Dan White      | Arizona          | Penn State                             |

*Compiled by Mark Clifford*

notion. He is self-assured and doesn't hesitate to give directions.

"He's the type of quarterback that if you're not going to compete, he really doesn't want you out there with him," said wide receiver Kevin Lockett, who fortunately shares May's attitude.

May and Lockett arrived on campus at the same time and became good friends, but Lockett wondered if that would be the case after his first impression of May. "I was appalled. I didn't know who he was," Lockett said. "I didn't know what position he played. Actually, I thought he played defensive end or something like that. When I first met him, he was a lot of talk. I wasn't sure if he could back it up. No one was."

**M**ay has always been, well, an unusual personality. In his Cal State-Fullerton days, he would try to change his luck by dyeing his hair. Among the colors were orange, black and blue; once he even mixed several colors together.

Unlike southern California, where the weather is sunny year-round, Manhattan has four distinct seasons, none of which May chooses to observe. "He'll wear shorts when it's 20 degrees and jeans when it's 80 degrees," Lockett said. "He just does what he wants."

Such free-spiritedness might suggest a lack of family guidance, but that's not the case with May, who is particularly close to his father. Jim and Marla—Chad's mother—made an extended trek to Manhattan in each of the last two seasons.

Jim May has been driving a Wonder Bread truck and selling the product for 17 years, and as a result earned a month of paid vacation. He took it all in a block last fall and he and Marla made the long drive to Kansas. The Mays lived out of a motor home for the entire time, often parking it outside Chad's apartment or taking it to a campground on Tuttle Creek Reservoir, just outside of town.

Jim attended every practice and spent as much time as possible with Chad before and afterward. With Snyder's blessing, Jim was on the sidelines for four games, always wearing a purple Kansas State jacket and hat—

both customized with Chad's name and number. Television cameras were often focused on him to get his reaction to big plays.

About the only place Jim wasn't allowed was in the coaches' film sessions. In his spare time during the visit, Jim did repairs on Chad's car. When the place Chad shares with lineman Jim Hmielewski and backup quarterback Matt Miller got messy, his mother cleaned it.

Unlike many father-son relationships, Chad and Jim never experienced the typical communication problems. Jim helped coach Chad in baseball and football from a young age and always took an active interest in his son's progress. Next fall, if May progresses to the NFL as expected, Jim and Marla will load up the motor home all over again.

The various pro scouting services have different opinions of May, but most have ranked him among the top few quarterback prospects in the draft, along with Alcorn State's Steve McNair, Georgia's Eric Zeier, Brigham Young's John Walsh and Southern Cal's Rob Johnson.

In the *NFL Draft Report*, Dave Thomas called May, "The second coming of Jim McMahon, without the shades." Hype aside, May is willing to be patient in his pursuit of pro stardom and he thinks playing behind an established starter for awhile would be an ideal situation.

"You can see how [the Washington Redskins] just threw Heath Shuler in there and he's not [been] too successful," May said. "It would be good to get a year or two under my belt before I jumped into action."

If he does become a starting quarterback in the NFL, May will be the first to come from Kansas State since 1974 graduate Steve Grogan and 1971 graduate Lynn Dickey.

May grew up a fan of UCLA and dreamed of playing there. However, the Bruins didn't recruit a quarterback in May's senior year of high school and they weren't interested in him when he decided to leave Cal State-Fullerton.

Does that memory still cross his mind? "Yeah," he said, without as much as cracking a smile. "They made a mistake." And Kansas State couldn't be happier. **CS**

*Tom Perrin is a free-lance writer based in Kansas City, Mo.*



# PAC MAN

## Cal Linebacker **JERROTT WILLARD** Chews Up Foes and Critics Alike in the Pac-10

By LYLE SPENCER

**A** Newport Beach boy, he was right there in their backyard, setting records for tackles and running for touchdowns as a two-way California high school star. He played on a championship team at Corona del Mar, which means Crown of the Sea in Spanish. Jerrott Willard was football royalty, all right.

Too bad Southern Cal and UCLA didn't recognize it. Willard, it seems, didn't quite measure up in the eyes of the local recruiters, didn't fit the mold of a big-time college linebacker. He wasn't 6-foot-4, 250 pounds. He didn't project. He was just a football player, that's all, a back-handed sort of compliment that comes as a slap from recruiters. But they never have figured out how to measure a kid's heart.

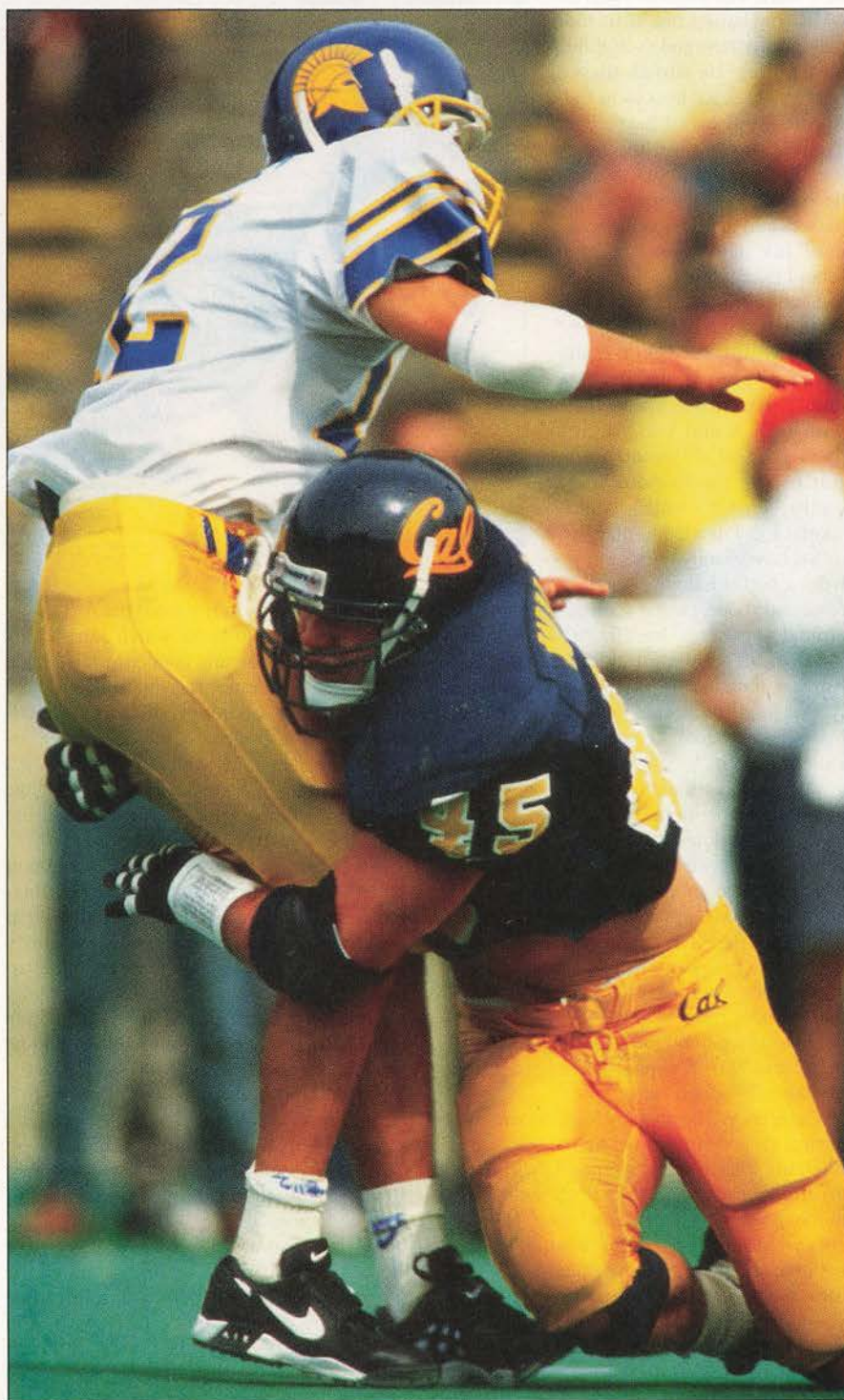
"I've always been pretty good about working for what I want," Willard said. "I'm pretty driven; I don't accept failure. I wanted to play football and prove to people who didn't recruit me that I could play and play really well. Once I knew I was coming here, to Cal, I wasn't going to flop. I think I've earned my respect."

The Trojans and Bruins have since been introduced to the local kid they overlooked. They have felt the wrath of No. 45 since Willard began roaming and reaming behind the California Golden Bears' defensive front. Willard made 22 tackles against USC in '93, 13 unassisted, and also knocked down a pass. He left a dramatic impact on UCLA the past two seasons, instigating successive beatings of the Bruins.

If it seems Willard devotes special attention to the two big schools that spurned him as a high school kid—leaving Cal and Oregon as the only Pac-10 programs to offer him a scholarship—it isn't really so. Willard is an equal-opportunity avenger, spreading fear and loathing every Saturday with his sideline-to-sideline mayhem.

"I've never seen anyone like that guy," Iowa coach Hayden Fry said on New Year's Eve '93, after Willard had personally overseen a dismantling of his Hawkeyes, 37-3, at the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

"He's one of the best football players I've seen," said USC's John Robinson, who must wonder what his predecessors at Troy were thinking when they didn't judge this California Interscholastic Federation Divi-





## PAC MAN

sion 6 Player of the Year worthy of a scholarship coming out of high school in 1990.

Willard has been among the nation's premier defensive players in college football the past two seasons. He was a candidate for the Butkus Award as America's most outstanding linebacker, a distinction that would fit this guy like an Armani. There's a whole lot of Butkus in Willard.

But there's a whole lot more to Willard than football. He grew up in a big family, one of six kids playing anything and everything, all the time. He surfed, played hockey—yes, ice hockey in California—and loved basketball. Trouble was, he lost too much weight shooting hoops, weight he needed to crush runners and passers into the ground. It wasn't until his junior year of high school that he finally settled on football full-time.

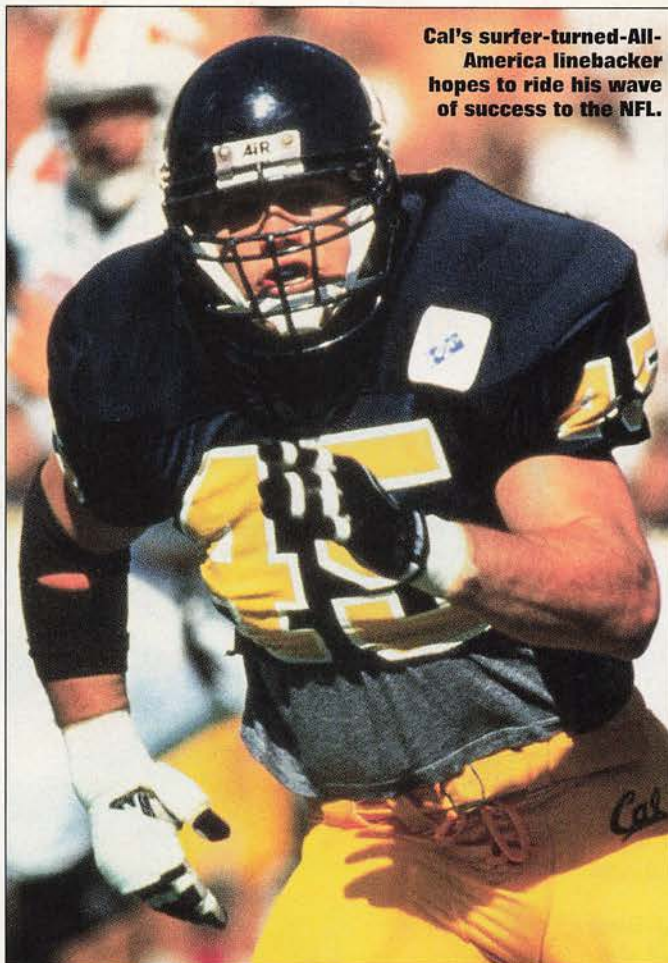
"I was a terrible spectator," Willard said. "I didn't really have a favorite football team or player. I went back and forth with UCLA and USC, liking them both at different times. But I wasn't a die-hard fan. I really didn't watch much sports. I just needed to play."

So, how exactly does a guy go from a surfer hanging out at the beach to a ferocious, bone-jarring football star hanging around opponents' backfields? How does a kid whose maternal grandfather, Carl Karcher, founded the hugely successful Carl's Jr. fast food chain, find the hunger—no pun intended—to achieve such greatness in so violent an arena?

"Any good athlete likes to be challenged by good competition," Willard said. "Am I a mean guy? I don't walk the street growling at people. I play a violent game. You have to have some violent nature in you. When I get angry at home, I don't throw things. You put your aggressions in anything you do in life. Right now, I play football."

Yes, but where did he acquire that fire, that burning need to succeed? What fueled the intensity behind the Pac-10's top tackler in '92 and '93? "I'm pretty sure I got it from my mom," Willard said.

Carleen Willard was 45 when she died during surgery in the spring of '93. "She's probably the strongest woman I ever met in my life," Jerrott said. "She dealt with things that happened in her life real well. My parents went through a divorce when I was a sophomore in high school, and it was a little nasty. I've got two older sisters, two younger sisters and a younger brother. She stayed positive around us kids and managed to keep us all together through a very rough time."



**Cal's surfer-turned-All-America linebacker hopes to ride his wave of success to the NFL.**

"I really admired her, and I never forget her. She's always in my thoughts."

Carleen used to come watch Jerrott play with a mother's natural concerns. His father, Michael, an insurance salesman, also figured prominently in shaping Willard's competitiveness. But gradually, Jerrott eased Carleen's fears about his well-being. "She saw I wasn't getting hit as much as I was doing the hitting," Willard said. "I think it took her quite a few years, but she understood."

Pain resurfaced for Willard last summer when Paul Joiner, Willard's stalwart linebacking partner, was badly injured in a car accident. Together, Joiner and Willard figured to be as good as any tandem in the nation. "When I saw him in a coma, it really hit me," Willard said. "[Later] he began moving and walking, talking a little, and he was understanding very well."

"It's like how I said I would never forget my mother. When she died, I realized you can't take anything for granted. You can't waste your time, can't waste a day. Because you never know what's going to happen to you."

Willard had a string of 37 consecutive starts snapped in the second game of the season, when a cyst behind his left knee forced him out of a game in Hawaii. The Golden Bears lost that one, although Willard said he was proud of the way the defense held up in his absence.

A keen student of his own work, Willard files a scouting report on himself. "I can chase running backs and catch them. I love to be turned loose against a running team. I can bump receivers and cover them. I can rush off the corner. I can blitz. I can do just about anything."

In an upset of Arizona in '93, Willard enhanced his already soaring reputation when he graded higher than any defensive player in Cal history. He made 17 stops, including four behind the line of scrimmage, while ignoring stabbing shoulder pain. Artie Gigantino, the Golden Bears' defensive coordinator who coached eventual pros Chip Banks, Duane Bickett, Jack Del Rio and Riki Ellison at USC, said, "Jerrott's as good a linebacker as I've ever coached—and I've coached some great ones."

Coaches love Willard's approach to the game. "He really is the best," Arizona State's Bruce Snyder said. "He's fast. It appears that he knows what everybody else is doing and should be doing. He's a sure tackler. He's courageous. I know him personally, and he's a terrific person to have on your team. He's got my vote for All-

American, no question."

Like Butkus, he's also a player's player, the do-it-all guy who inspires teammates and intimidates opponents. "He's not quiet," Cal cornerback Artis Houston said. "He's very vocal. He speaks what he sees. If he sees someone in front of him lining up wrong, he'll get them to the right spots. He also gives us examples by actions. He can do it."

Next year, Willard will be doing his hitting on Sundays. Some lucky NFL team will get him lower than he should be drafted, in the second round, perhaps, because he's only 6-2 and 232 pounds. It's the same old song.

"The size [issue] would bother anybody, but I can't dwell on it," Willard said. "It's just the way it is. I'm 232, but I probably don't look it. If a team wanted me to gain 10 pounds, I could do that. I wouldn't be going to school, so I'd have all my energy in one place. I'll just wait and see when I get picked up."

All over again, Willard will prove people wrong, make scouts regret that they didn't see the size of the muscle beating inside his chest. They can knock this kid from the beach, but they can't knock him down. And if they do, he'll get up and make them pay. All day long. **CS**

*Lyle Spencer is a columnist for the Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise.*



# AMY ACUFF

UCLA

By JOHN KLIMA

She has jumped from the shadow of the Alps to the tip of Asia. She's soared from England to Los Angeles, from Canada to Portugal. She's cleared oceans and continents in her quest to clear records. And she is only 19. UCLA sophomore Amy Acuff has established herself as one of the top high jumpers in this country and a premier competitor on the international scene, with one world competition win already. Along the way, the native of Corpus Christi, Texas, has reduced countless records to rubble in the fashion of that other Texan best known for fastballs.

It was at a meet in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1993 where Acuff had her finest—and most confidence-boosting—moment. Facing the top four finishers from the 1992 World Championships, Acuff cleared 6-feet, 4-inches to win the event.

"I was in a zone that day," she recalled. "It was like I had super power. I was clearing everything by a lot."

Acuff would go on to become the 1994 NCAA indoor champion and finish second at the 1994 NCAA outdoor championships last season. But it was that victory in Innsbruck that opened Acuff's eyes to the possibility that she could dominate international competition.

"[Innsbruck] was the single most moving experience I've had," she said. "Here I was with all these veterans and I'm this rookie. I looked around and said, 'Here's what it takes.' I really don't think it'll take a lot for me to reach that level."

Acuff was a star high jumper at Calallen High, where she set the national high school record with a jump of 6-4. She hopes to collect a few collegiate records as well, though her first outdoor national championship experience didn't quite go as planned.

Acuff won the Pac-10 championship, but at the NCAAs, she had to settle for second behind LSU's Gai Kapernick after missing on her first two attempts at 6-3½.

Still, Acuff said claiming the collegiate record of 6-5½ is a goal, as is making the Olympic team for the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta. She just missed making the 1992 Games. "I've seen the level," she said. "It's my goal to be among the elite."

She doesn't have to look too far to find motivation. Often at UCLA, she comes across former Olympic heptathlon standout Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

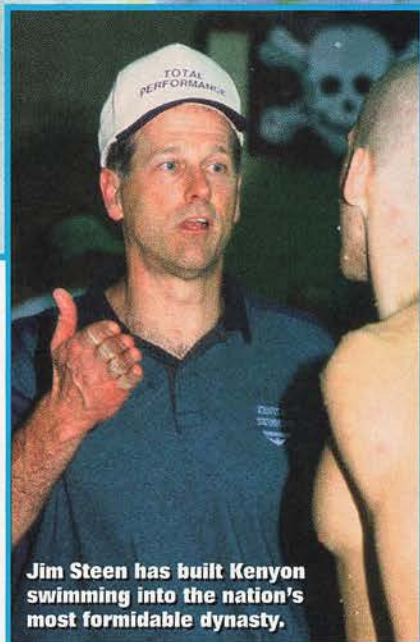
"You see how hard she works and how tired she is after she works out. She does what she has to be one of the best in the world," said Acuff, who broke Joyner-Kersey's 6-1 collegiate mark last year. "Getting her record was an honor because she's such a phenomenal person. It gives me a good feeling to be in her company."

Since high jumpers generally reach their prime between the ages of 25 and 28, Acuff has plenty of time to join some more select company. Her eyes are set on the world record—6-10½—and her faith in her skills could push her to unthinkable new heights. "It's always been in the back of my mind to be the first woman who clears seven feet," said Acuff. "It's sort of like this great unknown." **CS**





# LORDS OF THE POOL



**Jim Steen has built Kenyon swimming into the nation's most formidable dynasty.**

## KENYON'S SWIM TEAMS ARE MAKING HISTORY AT EVERY TURN

By **BRAD SCHMALTZ**

**I**t was the fall of 1963, and Jim Steen was a sophomore defensive tackle on the Mansfield, Ohio, High School football team. The squad was practicing prior to the first game of the season and Steen failed to make a tackle. The coach strolled over to Steen. "Son, you know what your problem is?" the coach asked. "You don't like to get dirty."

If it was a motivational speech designed to inspire Steen, it failed miserably. Steen realized the coach had indeed hit upon the exact reason Steen would never make a good football player. Moments later, he walked off the field, never to return. Instead, he decided to pour himself into the sport of swimming.

"If you play football, you get dirty," Steen said. "If you swim, you get wet. I never had a problem with being wet."

It was a moment that changed the course of NCAA swimming history. Steen went on to compete as a sprinter and backstroker at Kent State University, qualifying for the 1970 NCAA Championships. But Steen's greatest impact has been as coach of the men's and women's swimming programs at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he has built two of the greatest dynasties in the history of college sports.

Steen, 46, has coached the Kenyon men's

team to 15 straight Division III national swimming titles, the longest championship streak in NCAA history, regardless of division or sport. Second on the NCAA list is the Hobart College lacrosse program that won 12 straight Division III men's titles from 1980 to 1991; Steen's women's team, which has won 11 straight Division III titles, could match that accomplishment this year.

**T**he Kenyon swimming program was good before Steen arrived in 1976—the Lords have won 41 straight men's conference titles, 31 in the Ohio Athletic Conference and the last 10 in its current league, the North Coast Athletic Conference. But Steen has taken the program to a higher level.

Gregg Parini, a former Kenyon swimmer and now coach of the men's and women's teams at Denison, has learned how outsiders find it tough trying to unseat the Lords from their perch. For Parini's first seven years, the Denison men have been second to Kenyon in the NCAC; on the women's side, the bridesmaid streak is three straight and six of seven.

"In most conferences in the country, we'd be the No. 1 team in the conference," said Parini, a 1982 Kenyon grad. "You put us in any other conference, and we'd be the





borhood. Steen's recruiting pitch has drawn top talent from one end of the country to the other—and beyond.

The 1994-'95 men's class, for instance, features top swimmers and divers from Alaska, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, New Hampshire, Virginia, Ohio, and even Germany. The women's team is just as diverse, with athletes coming from California, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Ohio, Connecticut, Illinois and Minnesota.

"I've always thought that in order to succeed at the highest Division I level, you have to be one of the top 10 or 15 swimmers in the country coming out of high school," Steen said. "My feeling has always been if you're one of the top 20 swimmers in the United States, go to one of the top 20 Division I teams. If not, you would do very well to think long and hard about where you're going to continue on."

In addition to its swimming success, many of those swimmers in that second tier opt for Kenyon because of its strong academic reputation as a liberal arts college. "This is an environment where I was able to do everything I wanted to do," said senior Carla Ainsworth, who was recruited by Stanford, Northwestern, Harvard and Michigan, but chose Kenyon and has since won 19 Division III national titles, including eight in individual events.

Steen is a details fanatic ("We sweat the details like nobody I know," he said), an innovator and a master motivator. He has developed several different training techniques, including the Power Rack, a machine to help the development of swimmers.

fronting our fears," said senior Kevin Fease. "If our biggest fear is racing, we'll swim every race in the meet. What that does is help us overcome those fears and, at the end, that's baggage we don't have to carry. We can just get down to swimming, and that makes it a lot easier to swim fast."

Last year's national meet was Steen's biggest challenge as his men's team faced a powerful UC San Diego team that he figured had the upper hand on his young squad. "We had a lot of green rookies, a lot of young kids," Steen said. "We were, without question, the weakest team I've had since we've started winning nationals."

The final score: Kenyon 615 points, runner-up UC San Diego 389.5.

"To be honest, I don't know if anybody's going to beat him before he gets out of there," UC San Diego men's coach Doug Boyd said.

Now, the Kenyon's men's team is back, snorting with its usual confidence. "This may be the strongest team I've been on," said Fease, who finished second in the 1,650 yards and was a finalist in the 500 last year. Fease lost the 1,650 to teammate Dave Phillips, one of the freshmen who played a key part in the title win last year.

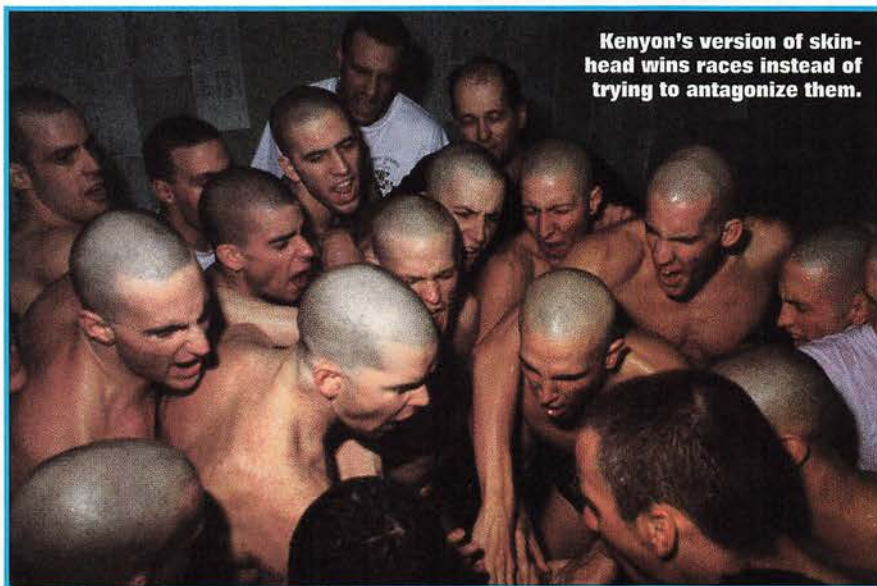
"Our last three recruiting classes have just been phenomenal," Phillips said. "Either next year or two years after that, it should be the most amazing team Kenyon has ever had. We had too many people this year, and it's hard to decide who to cut because everyone is so fast."

The women are also on solid ground for their usual run at a title, thanks to the return of Ainsworth, who won the 50-, 100- and 200-yard freestyle events last year and has swum the fastest 100 (50.67 seconds) and 200 (1:50.75) in Division III women's history.

Record-setting times and fast swimmers are nothing new to Kenyon. Neither are awards, which are held in considerably lower esteem by Steen, who was given the 1994 National Collegiate and Scholastic Swimming Trophy—presented annually to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to swimming as a competitive sport. "I'm not a big awards sort of person, but that was nice," Steen said. "In fact, my athletic director is not very happy with me because I've probably lost four or five of the conference trophies we've won over the years."

But the trophies continue to roll in, even though you won't find a lot of motivational sayings in the locker rooms extolling the virtues—or necessity—of winning. "What is the best?" Steen said. "The best is someone who has success, falls from grace, gets up and has success again. We haven't done that yet. What we've just done is the unusual." **CS**

Brad Schmalz is a staff writer for the Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch.



toast of the town. It's a frustration for our kids, but it's a challenge, too.

"If you have any plans on winning a national title, I think it serves you best to play in the big dog's backyard."

The country's biggest dog has a tiny backyard in small-town Gambier, but thanks to Steen it roams in a limitless neigh-

"I think we're pretty much on the cutting edge on a lot of things," Steen said.

Steen relies on time-tested techniques when it comes to motivating his teams, though. "I provoke, I cajole, I criticize, I exorcise, I encourage, I commiserate and, sometimes, I complicate," he said.

"A lot of his motivation comes in con-



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BY BRENDAN HEALEY

## KYLE MACY

**COLLEGE:** Kentucky  
**YEAR GRADUATED:** 1980  
**AGE:** 37

**CLAIM TO FAME:** Was the starting point guard on Kentucky's 1978 NCAA championship team and a two-time All America.

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Correspondent banking officer for Central Bank and Trust in Lexington, Ky. Runs the Kyle Macy Basketball Camp and is the Kentucky distributor for Sports Court athletic flooring. Color commentator on Kentucky basketball radio network.

**K**yle Macy will never forget the night he and Kentucky teammate Jack Givens combined for 50 points in the 1978 NCAA championship game against Duke, or the time he and Chicago Bulls teammate Michael Jordan put up 70 points together in the NBA playoffs against the Boston Celtics.

Of course, Givens accounted for 41 of the 50 points against Duke and Jordan scored 63 of the duo's 70 against the Celtics, but as Macy said, "When the other guy's got the hot hand, you get him the ball. . . . It doesn't take a Rhodes Scholar to figure that out." No wonder Macy was known as a heady player.

Sure, Macy played a supporting role in two of the more outstanding NCAA and NBA postseason performances ever, but he was also a star in his own right, particularly as a Kentucky Wildcat. One of the best players in Kentucky history, the 6-foot-3 Macy was a two-time All America and went on to a lengthy pro career.

Macy made his name as the starting point guard on the Wildcats' 1978 national championship team, but he began his career at Purdue. An Indiana na-

tive, Macy scored a Big Ten freshman-record 38 points in the conference opener against Minnesota. It turned out to be his Purdue pinnacle.

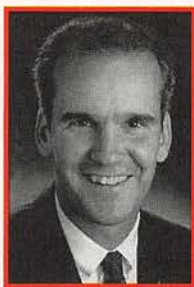
"From there it went right downhill. I stopped seeing the ball," Macy said. "I just wasn't happy. Purdue's a great school, but I didn't see much happening on the floor."

Macy transferred to Ken-

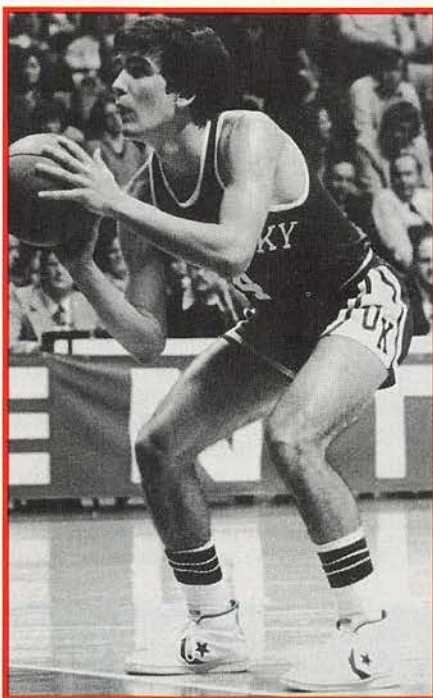
chipped in 12.5 points per game.

"The strongest memory I have is of winning the national championship in 1978," Macy said. "That was an unbelievable year. We set a goal from Day One of winning it, and every day, at the end of practice, we'd come together and verbalize that it was our goal. When you reach your goal, it seems like a dream come true."

# LEADER OF THE 'CATS



**Lexington legend**  
**KYLE MACY**  
**guided**  
**Kentucky**  
**to its last**  
**NCAA title**



tucky, where he had to sit out the season, but did get to suit up for the Blue-White preseason intra-squad game. "The first time I put on the Kentucky uniform I got chillbumps up my spine," Macy said. "I knew it would be a long year, but I'd done the right thing."

As a redshirt sophomore, Macy joined a veteran Kentucky lineup that featured senior starters Givens, Rick Robey and Mike Phillips. With Macy at the helm, the Wildcats marched through the season and on to the national championship, where they beat Duke, 94-88. "I couldn't have written the script any better—first year back you play on a national championship team," Macy said.

Macy was the lone sophomore starter that season, but he, nonetheless, won Kentucky's team leadership award and

Kentucky fans were starved for the Wildcats' first national championship since 1958, but they weren't satiated. "The first person who came up to me said, 'Hey, you can win two more in a row,'" Macy said.

Kentucky, in fact, hasn't won one since. A young team fell just short of the NCAAs Macy's junior year, and the 'Cats lost to Duke in the first round the next season. Macy, however, excelled. He was the team's most valuable player both seasons, averaging 15.2 and 15.4 points per game.

Macy enjoyed a lengthy, if not spectacular, pro career. He was chosen in the first round of the 1979 NBA Draft as a junior eligible by the Phoenix Suns and played in Phoenix from 1980 to 1985, where he averaged 10.4 points and 4.0 assists.

Macy led the league in free

throw shooting (.907) his last year in Phoenix and then joined the Bulls for the 1985-'86 season. After one season, the Bulls traded Macy to Indiana, and he spent one year with the Pacers before heading to Europe. He played three seasons in Italy before retiring and returning to Lexington, where he lives with his wife, Tina, and soon-to-be 3-year-old daughter Mallory.

For all his accomplishments in basketball, Macy is probably most disappointed that he couldn't land a coaching job. After his pro career ended, Macy began putting out feelers. He wasn't looking for the head job in a big-time program, but rather an assistant's job at a major or in the pros. Yet Macy, the ultimate thinking-man's player and the son of a coach, came up empty.

He volunteered at a local high school for a while and has continued to run the Kyle Macy Basketball Camp, but Macy doesn't get any closer to the bench than the announcer's table, where he sits while doing color commentary for the Kentucky basketball radio network.

Macy still plays some and has done professional all-star tours each of the last two summers.

In addition to his radio work and basketball camp, Macy also is the Kentucky distributor of Sports Court athletic flooring—somehow an appropriate position for a guy with one of the all-time great floor games—and he works at Lexington's Central Bank and Trust as a correspondent banking officer.

Macy's boss at the bank is his former coach, Joe B. Hall. Some players might dread working for their old coach, but Macy and Hall have a ball talking about the old times as they criss-cross the state on business.

A large part of their job is spreading goodwill for the bank, and the Macy name lives on around the state as it does in basketball. Last spring, for instance, after watching his heavily favored Cal team lose to Wisconsin-Green Bay in the NCAAs, a frustrated Todd Bozeman called the Phoenix a team of "five Kyle Macys."

That may be Bozeman's nightmare, but it would be any Kentucky fan's dream. **CS**

*Brendan Healey is a free-lance writer based in New York City.*



In basketball, more than in most matters of life, size counts. Having height has always been an advantage in hoops. Until now.

Along comes Shawnta Rogers—all 5 feet, 4 inches of him—from inner-city Baltimore's Lake Clifton High School and, suddenly, bigger isn't necessarily better. From the time he was born and nurses at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center in Baltimore dubbed him "Peanut," the diminutive Rogers has proven that coming up short isn't such a bad thing.

"It was never tough," said Rogers, who is not intimidated by bigger opponents. "I'm quicker than most guys. I try to just go straight by them."

"He's hard-nosed, and he hates to lose," said Lake Clifton coach Charles Moore.

In Baltimore, top players often turn to Dunbar High. In fact, the most prominent little man in the NBA today—5-3 Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues—played at Dunbar in the early 1980s before going to Wake Forest and on to a long pro career.

Rogers hears the Muggsy comparisons and is inspired by them. After all, players like Muggsy and 5-7 Spud Webb proved that there is still a place in basketball for the little man. "Some say he's Muggsy with a jump shot, but I say [Muggsy] is Shawnta without a jump shot," Moore said.

Another undersized Baltimore product, 1993 Lake Clifton graduate Kevin Norris, will join the sub-6-foot ranks in college this season at the University of Miami (Fla.). The 5-9 Norris is more than a former teammate to Rogers; they are cousins and spend time together like brothers.

Norris introduced Rogers to basketball. They grew up running together in games at the Cecil Kirk Recreation Center, where Reggie Lewis and David Wingate once played. And it was Norris that helped Rogers land at Lake Clifton. Despite advice to attend Dunbar, Rogers chose Lake Clifton because he wanted to play with Norris.

Rogers started as a freshman at Lake Clifton and has been named all-state every season since. When Rogers was a sophomore and Norris was a senior, they were dubbed the best backcourt in Baltimore.



# STANDING TALL

## Big-Time Little Man **SHAWNTA ROGERS** Uses His Height To His Advantage

By **RODNEY PEELE**

Once, a high school team from California saw Rogers and Norris take the court and laughed. The boys from the west coast lost by 90. "That kind of thing used to happen a lot; people would say we were too little," Rogers said. "It doesn't happen too much now."

After Norris left to attend Maine Central Institute for a year, Rogers scored a team-high 20.1 points per game as a junior. He also averaged 6.5 assists, 5.3 steals and almost seven rebounds a game. "It's a multiplicity of things that he does," Moore said. "He even blocks shots. You'd be surprised."

Rogers has long been surprising people, though the frequency has continued to decline as his reputation continues to grow, even if he doesn't. Last summer, he traveled the country, attending camps and playing tournaments with Cecil Kirk teams. He won half a dozen MVP trophies and the attention of the national basketball community. Now several ACC schools top his list of suitors.

"[Rogers] has tremendous range and he's one of the most accurate shooters I've seen," said Southern High (Md.) coach Meredith Smith, who once coached Bogues. "Playing against him is tough. He causes so many problems because he's difficult to defend."

He was once difficult to defend on a football field, too. Rogers was a football player first, and remains convinced that he could excel in that sport as well. After all, NFL standout running back Barry Sanders is 5-7.

"They said I was better in football than basketball," said Rogers, who played running back. "I used to average four touchdowns a game."

But Rogers has focused exclusively on basketball, a game he plays day and night. Even in the cold Baltimore winters, he stays outside shooting around until as late as 4 a.m. It's his shooting and defense that get the most of Rogers' effort and practice time; dribbling and passing come easy.

"If it's cold, I put a hood on," Rogers said. "I was out there shooting in the rain, everything. My mother tells me to lay off sometimes, but I can't. I come home and if somebody calls me to play . . . I'm gone." **CS**



# BLUE CHIPPERS

By BILL BUCHALTER

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR BASEBALL PLAYERS

# JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM STARS SET TO SHINE

**T**he baseball strike may have turned the summer and early fall into a time of inactivity for major-leaguers across the country, but the nation's best high school players didn't miss their chance to step up to the plate. The high school stars barely had a moment's rest during what is typically the high school offseason, thanks to the numerous national and regional all-star games and tournaments where the players take aim at the fences and at garnering some national recognition.

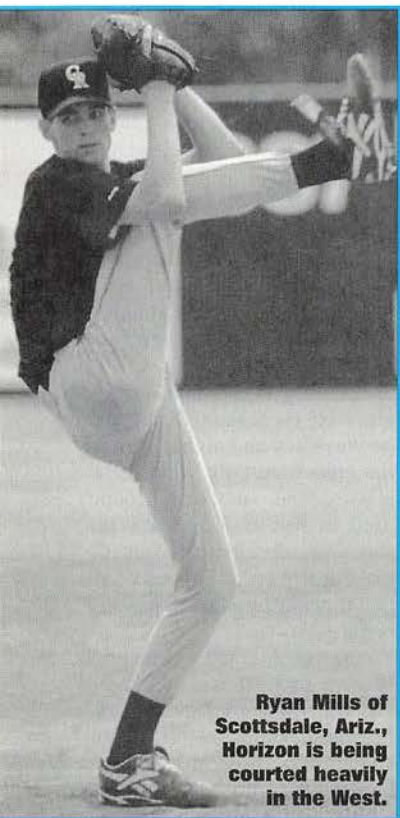
Eight current high school players made the prestigious 18-player USA Baseball Junior National team—selected after the Olympic Festival—and now share the label of the country's best players entering this season.

Some players took part in the Goodwill Series between the U.S. and teams from Korea and Japan, while still others played in the Fall Classic East Coast baseball series.

"It's a chance for them to compete against international competition," Junior National team coach Steve Cohen said. "But the biggest thing for them is just having the opportunity to have that U.S.A. on their chest. To look down and see that . . . it's a phenomenon that's hard to describe."

The eight players named to the Junior National team head COLLEGE SPORTS' list of America's 75 most talented senior high school baseball prospects by position. Left-handed pitcher Andy Bair of Calvert Hall in Towson, Md., showed he wasn't awed by playing where the big-

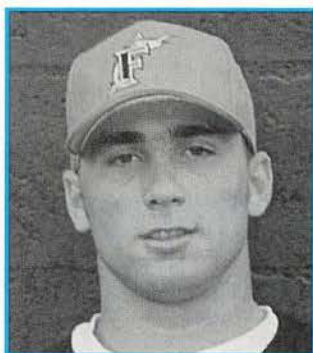
**Catcher Ben Davis of Malvern, Pa., Prep starred on the Junior National Team.**



**Ryan Mills of Scottsdale, Ariz., Horizon is being courted heavily in the West.**



**Chad Hermansen (top) and Chris Manser are among the nation's top outfielders.**



leaguers weren't when he collected two hits, drove in two runs and pitched a complete game, four-hit shutout at Busch Stadium in St. Louis before 25,000 fans in the gold medal game.

Other current high school stars on the Junior National team included outfielder Eric Valent, first baseman Billy Deck, shortstop Michael Barrett, catcher Ben Davis, shortstop Jay Hood, catcher David Ross and pitcher Brian Wiese.

Valent, from Canyon Country, Calif., Canyon, led the West team in hitting at the Olympic

Festival with a .429 average. Deck, of Potomac, Md., hit .353 to lead the East. Barrett, of Atlanta, Ga., Pace Academy, shared top RBI honors at the Festival with six.

Hood, a shortstop from Germantown, Tenn., "has great hands and feet and is an outstanding defensive player," Cohen said. And Ross of Tallahassee, Fla., "has a great arm—he can get the ball down to second in a hurry," Cohen said.

Wiese, who pitched for Baton Rouge, La., Central, was picked to the All-District 6 team, along



with Joey Fontenot of Lafayette, La., Acadiana. Davis, who plays under former major-leaguer Greg Gross at Malvern Prep, rivals Erie Cathedral Prep's Jim Scharrer as Pennsylvania's best.

Scharrer, a first baseman and pitcher who was named third-team All America by the National High School Baseball Coaches Association, collected eight home runs and 40 RBI to lead his team to the state semifinals. On the mound, he used his 90 mile-per-hour fastball to collect 104 strikeouts in 68½ innings and to compile an 11-2 record and 1.63 ERA.

Like Scharrer, Trenton, Mich., righthander J.J. Putz was selected a BCA third-team All America. Other names to remember as they begin their senior seasons are pitcher/outfielder Chris Manser of Tampa, Fla., pitcher Mike Spinelli of Revere, Mass., first baseman Jon Tucker of Mission Hills, Calif., outfielder Chad Whitaker of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., catcher Charles Alley of West Palm Beach, Fla., infielder Brian Oliver of Antioch, Calif., and outfielder/shortstop Chad Hermansen of Henderson, Nev.

Manser is from Hillsborough High, which also produced Dwight Gooden and Gary Sheffield. Spinelli, of Revere High, was the scouts' choice as the top player at the Fall Classic in the East Coast baseball series. Tucker, who had six hits in the Goodwill Series, impressed scouts with his sweet swing, which drew comparisons to that of Atlanta Braves slugger Fred McGriff's.

Whitaker, the son of former major leaguer Steve Whitaker, hit nine home runs and drove in 34 runs for St. Thomas Aquinas High and has already signed a grant-in-aid to play for the University of Miami. Alley had five hits in the Goodwill Series and is considered the best catcher in his part of Florida since Charles Johnson, the Florida Marlins' top draft choice two years ago.

Oliver was previously known to scouts for his defensive skills, but he further impressed them by hitting .350 in the Goodwill Series. Hermansen hit the only home run in that series and has the scouts comparing his bat control to Detroit Tigers veteran Alan Trammell. **CS**

*Bill Buchalter is a recruiting analyst for the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.*

## TOP BASEBALL SENIORS

| PLAYER             | HT./WT.  | HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL                        |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>PITCHERS</b>    |          |                                             |
| Jeff Austin        | 6-1/185  | Kingwood, Texas/Kingwood                    |
| Andy Bair          | 6-5/230  | Manchester, Md./Calvert Hall                |
| John Bird          | 6-2/205  | Jacksonville, Fla./University Christian     |
| Jason Brester      | 6-3/170  | Burlington, Wash./Burlington                |
| Tim Burton         | 6-2/205  | Fort Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas    |
| Dave Coggins       | 6-3/190  | Upland, Calif./Upland                       |
| Ronnie Daniels     | 6-3/215  | Lake Wales, Fla./Lake Wales                 |
| Doug Dent          | 6-8/210  | Citrus Heights, Calif./San Juan             |
| Lou Fisher         | 6-0/180  | Oakland, Calif./Fremont                     |
| Peter Flores       | 5-11/198 | Baldwin Park, Calif./Sierra Vista           |
| Joey Fontenot      | 6-3/185  | Lafayette, La./Acadiana                     |
| Zack Frachiseur    | 6-0/190  | Conyers, Ga./Rockdale County                |
| Phil Lowery        | 6-1/175  | Petaluma, Calif./Casa Grande                |
| Carlos Martinez    | 6-1/190  | Coral Springs, Fla./Miami, Florida, Bible   |
| Tony McKnight      | 6-4/220  | Texarkana, Ark./Texarkana                   |
| Ryan Mills         | 6-5/180  | Scottsdale, Ariz./Horizon                   |
| Josh Morgan        | 6-2/165  | Santa Monica, Calif./Santa Monica           |
| Jimmy Osting       | 6-4/180  | Jeffersonton, Ky./Trinity                   |
| J.J. Putz          | 6-5/225  | Trenton, Mich./Trenton                      |
| Ryan Rushing       | 6-1/175  | Citrus Heights, Calif./Citrus Heights       |
| Mike Spinelli      | 6-2/210  | Revere, Mass./Revere                        |
| Chris Tibbits      | 6-2/190  | Altamonte Springs, Fla./Lake Brantley       |
| Brian Wiese        | 5-10/185 | Greenwell Springs, La./Baton Rouge Central  |
| Brad Williams      | 6-5/200  | Tucson, Ariz./Sabino                        |
| Andy Yount         | 6-2/185  | Kingwood, Texas/Kingwood                    |
| <b>CATCHERS</b>    |          |                                             |
| Charles Alley      | 6-3/185  | West Palm Beach, Fla./Palm Beach Lakes      |
| Ryan Bowers        | 6-2/200  | St. George, Utah/St. George                 |
| Ben Davis          | 6-3/185  | Aston, Pa./Malvern Prep                     |
| Greg Halverson     | 6-4/215  | Tucson, Ariz./Canyon del Oro                |
| Ben Petrick        | 6-0/195  | Hillsboro, Ore./Glencoe                     |
| Mark Plants        | 6-3/230  | South Charleston, W.Va./South Charleston    |
| Mike Rose          | 5-11/180 | Sacramento, Calif./Jesuit                   |
| David Ross         | 6-2/190  | Tallahassee, Fla./Florida University High   |
| Jeff Walker        | 6-2/215  | Grenada, Miss./Kirk Academy                 |
| Josh Holliday      | 5-11/185 | Stillwater, Okla./Stillwater                |
| <b>INFIELDERS</b>  |          |                                             |
| Michael Barrett    | 6-2/183  | Alpharetta, Ga./Atlanta Pace Academy        |
| Andrew Beinbrick   | 6-3/190  | San Diego, Calif./Mira Mesa                 |
| Na Brown           | 6-2/170  | Reidsville, N.C./Reidsville                 |
| Greg Cancilla      | 6-0/180  | Erie, Pa./Erie Cathedral Prep               |
| Julian Dean        | 6-1/175  | Greenville, S.C./Greenville East Side       |
| Billy Deck         | 6-0/175  | Dumfries, Va./Potomac                       |
| Jason Gregory      | 6-2/175  | Mobile, Ala./UMS-Wright Prep                |
| Chad Hochesang     | 6-2/195  | Fullerton, Calif./Sunny Hills               |
| Jay Hood           | 6-0/180  | Germantown, Tenn./Germantown                |
| Jeremy Kittoe      | 5-10/160 | Potosi, Wis./Potosi                         |
| Randy Knoll        | 6-4/185  | Corona, Calif./Corona                       |
| Ryan Lentz         | 6-2/195  | Woodinville, Wash./Woodinville              |
| Aaron Miles        | 5-8/160  | Antioch, Calif./Antioch                     |
| Kevin Miller       | 5-11/180 | Seattle, Wash./Ballard                      |
| Brian Oliver       | 5-9/160  | Antioch, Calif./Antioch                     |
| Nathan Rolinson    | 6-5/210  | Petal, Miss./Petal                          |
| Jeremi Rudolph     | 5-10/185 | Apopka, Fla./Apopka                         |
| Jim Scharrer       | 6-4/225  | Erie, Pa./Erie Cathedral Prep               |
| Jon Tucker         | 6-5/200  | Mission Hills, Calif./Mission Hills Academy |
| Paul Turco         | 5-11/150 | Sarasota, Fla./Sarasota                     |
| <b>OUTFIELDERS</b> |          |                                             |
| Andy Berard        | 5-11/165 | Aurora, Colo./Eaglecrest                    |
| Donald Bly         | 5-10/170 | Chesapeake, Va./Western Branch              |
| Tony Cogan         | 6-2/175  | Highland Park, Ill./Highland Park           |
| Aaron Church       | 5-11/175 | Orlando, Fla./Bishop Moore                  |
| Darrell Dent       | 6-2/175  | Van Nuys, Calif./Montclair Prep             |
| Jeremy DeShazer    | 5-10/180 | Kirkland, Wash./Lake Washington             |
| Chad Hermansen     | 6-2/175  | Henderson, Nev./Green Valley                |
| Corey Jenkins      | 6-1/185  | Columbia, S.C./Dreher                       |
| Jaime Jones        | 6-3/180  | San Diego, Calif./Rancho Bernardo           |
| Tony Johnson       | 5-11/185 | Oakland, Calif./Oakland                     |
| Kevin Kemp         | 6-5/290  | Wewoka, Okla./Wewoka                        |
| Damien Kolb        | 5-11/180 | Olympia, Wash./Capital                      |
| Chris Manser       | 6-2/210  | Tampa, Fla./Hillsborough                    |
| Freddie May        | 6-1/180  | Seattle, Wash./Kennedy                      |
| Matt Parker        | 6-1/190  | Westminster, Colo./Westminster              |
| Joel Stephens      | 6-1/195  | Elmira, N.Y./Notre Dame                     |
| Eric Valent        | 6-0/185  | Canyon Country, Calif./Canyon               |
| Atrice Walker III  | 6-1/185  | Decatur, Ga./Lakeside                       |
| Chad Whittaker     | 6-2/185  | Fort Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas    |
| Kevin Williams     | 6-1/180  | Pine Bluff, Ark./Dollarway                  |



# DIVISION I DIGEST

This month: **SOFTBALL**

## High-Flying WILDCATS Launch Their Title Defense



Arizona first baseman Amy Chellevald.

If this spring is anything like its immediate predecessor, don't be surprised if an ad seeking an air traffic controller appears in the classified section of the *Tucson Citizen*. The addition of such a position to the Arizona softball coaching staff may be the only way to make the skies above Hiltenbrand Stadium safe again.

Low-flying planes and opposing pitchers were treated rather rudely by a Wildcats lineup reminiscent of the '61 Yankees. One year after leading the nation with 38 home runs, Arizona batters drilled 93 during the 1994 season, which culminated in a second straight national championship.

"The phenomenal thing was that we weren't doing it against a weak schedule," Arizona coach Mike Candrea said. "People around the country were in awe of the numbers we were putting on the board. Then, they saw us play and realized it was no fluke."

If something unusual happens once, it can be dismissed as a fluke. If it happens 93 times—four more times than the rest of the Pac-10 Conference combined—it's nothing short of a trend, and a remarkable, record-breaking trend at that.

The long-ball assault began

immediately, as Arizona opened the season with a 14-0 win over No. 14 Texas A&M and a 10-0 pasting of New Mexico State. Then there was a seven-game stretch in mid-February when the Wildcats averaged 13.4 runs per outing. But the real eye-opener for Candrea came against Pac-10 nemesis UCLA, the only team other than Arizona to win a national title in the 1990s.

"We were playing UCLA at home and [All-America pitcher] DeeDee Weiman was on the mound," Candrea recalled. "We hit five home runs in that doubleheader, and I just said, 'Wait a minute.'"

The final numbers were staggering. Four players finished with at least 14 HRs, and six Wildcats drove in more than 40 runs. Leading the way was All-America shortstop Laura Espinoza, whose offensive totals (.392 average, 30 HR, 95 RBI) compared favorably to American League MVP Frank Thomas (.353, 38 HR, 101 RBI), especially considering she played in 47 fewer games.

"We take a lot of pride in our hitting," Candrea said. "Our goal is to hit the ball hard, and we work very hard at it. Not a day goes by when our kids

don't get 100 to 150 swings."

It's assumed that Candrea was referring to practice swings, though the way Arizona batted its way to the title, there seems to be no limit to the damage this team can inflict. And the most intriguing thing is that five of the six All-America honorees from the '94 champions are back: Espinoza, senior first baseman Amy Chellevald (.504, 4 HR, 47 RBI), junior second baseman Jenny Dalton (16 HR, 91 RBI), sophomore catcher Leah Braatz (.397, 18 HR, 75 RBI), and junior outfielder Leah O'Brien (.416, 3 HR, 45 RBI). Chellevald, Dalton and O'Brien finished one-two-three in the final Pac-10 stats in both hits and runs scored. Nancy Evans (.351, 6 HR, 41 RBI) and Kristen Gomez (.311) add depth to a deadly lineup.

The only loss—and a major



Kim Ward, Oklahoma St.

## Olympic Team Dreaming

When the Olympics come to Atlanta in 1996, softball fans finally will be able to enjoy a Dream Team of their own. The dream of fielding an Olympic softball team will come to fruition when, for the first time, the sport will be part of the Summer Games.

"When something makes it in the Olympics, it's an automatic stamp of approval by America at large," said Cindy Bristow, the director of national teams and coaching developments for the Amateur Softball Association.

According to Bristow, Team USA is considered a substantial favorite to medal in Atlanta. While most of the inaugural team will consist of former All Americas and veteran summer-

league standouts, there are several current collegians who have a shot at making the 15-player roster. Hawaii pitcher Brooke Wilkins has already been named to the Olympic team for her native Australia, and catcher Colleen Thorburn of Division II Kennesaw State (Ga.) is expected to compete for Team Canada. But here are some of today's college stars who may have an inside track to Team USA and the historic trip to Atlanta: **Laura Berg, Soph., LF, Fresno State:** Berg played centerfield for Team USA at the 1994 World Championships in Newfoundland and had the game-winning hit against China. "I believe she is one of the best outfielders in the world right now," FSU coach Margie Wright said.

**Gillian Boxx, Sr., C, California:** The three-time All America was the only

collegian selected to the USA contingent for both the World Games and the alternate team for the Pan-Am Games. Boxx is solid behind the plate and hits for average (.369 as a junior in '94).

**Jenny Dalton, Jr., 2B, Arizona:** Dalton's versatility helped Arizona win the 1994 national championship and could be enough to land her an Olympic invitation. She hits for power (16 HR), runs the bases well (13-for-13 in stolen base attempts) and is also comfortable at third base. She was one of two Arizona players on the Pan-Am alternate squad that played in Guatemala in December.

**Gina Givogri, Jr., CF, Cal St.-Sacramento:** Givogri earned her way to Guatemala more with style than stats. Givogri was an All-WAC selection despite less-than-spectacular

numbers (.316, 11 RBI), thanks to her ability to hit in any one of the top four spots in the Hornets' lineup.

**Leah O'Brien, Jr., CF, Arizona:** The other Wildcat on the Pan-Am alternate team, O'Brien rivals Berg as the top defensive outfielder in the nation. "I wouldn't trade Leah for anyone," Arizona coach Mike Candrea said.

**Danny Tyler, Jr., SS, Drake:** In just two seasons, Tyler is already the top home run hitter in Drake softball history (17). She led the Bulldogs in eight offensive categories, but her ability to



Jennifer Brundage,  
UCLA.



one, at that—is pitcher Suzie Parra, who hit .342 with 14 HR and went 33-1 with a 1.04 ERA as the ace of the Arizona staff. Evans (17-0) and Carrie Dolan (11-2) will split most of the time on the mound, though the Wildcats offense should keep the pressure off of the pitching staff.

"I've always felt that good pitching stops good hitting, and the reason Arizona was so dominating was that they had both," UCLA assistant coach Sue Enquist said. "If anybody feels that the door is cracked open a little bit this year, it's only because Suzie Parra is gone."

UCLA has lost Weiman, its top pitcher from '94, but should have enough returning talent to

play three positions in the infield landed her a spot on the Pan-Am alternate team. "Without any doubt, she is one of the top young players in the country," coach Megan Bryant said.

**Michelle Venturella, Sr., C, Indiana:** Venturella (.418, 16 HR, 65 RBI in '94) is one of the most feared hitters in the Big Ten, as evidenced by the 56 walks she was issued.

**Kim Ward, Sr., P, Oklahoma State:** Ward didn't travel to either Newfoundland or Guatemala, but the seven members of the Team USA selection committee are no doubt aware of her showings in Stillwater. Ward may be the best college pitcher in the country and is no slouch at the plate either (team-high 8 HR, 30 RBI).

make a run at Arizona. The Bruins will turn to D'Ann Burns, who went 21-5 with a 1.60 ERA last season as a freshman, and Georgia State transfer Kaci Clark, who won 25 games and hit over .300 a year ago. "We have enough pitching to compete with anybody," Enquist said.

And they're not exactly hurting in the production department, not with first-team All America Jennifer Brundage back in the lineup. The senior third baseman led the Bruins in batting (.437), RBI (39) and slugging percentage (.582) a year ago. Brundage will be protected this year by sophomore infielders Nicole Odom and Aleah Poulson and senior catcher Cindy Valero.

Like both Arizona and UCLA, Fresno State boasts the balance necessary to be considered a legitimate contender, though the Bulldogs aren't as deep as the two front-runners. Senior Maureen Brady, whose 36 victories were the most in Division I last year, is the cornerstone of a staff that will depend heavily on the rapid development of sophomores Jennifer Clark and Kelly Sparks. The Bulldog pitchers, though, will benefit from a terrific defense, featuring shortstop Randi Berg—"She could become the best shortstop ever to play here," FSU coach Margie Wright said—and a do-it-all, catch-it-all outfield of Laura Berg, Jennifer Henry and Robyn Yorke.

If there is one team that could ride the success of a single player to the top, it's Oklahoma State. The Cowgirls have nine seniors on the roster, but their chances depend on the ability of 28-year-old senior All America Kim Ward to dominate. "She's one of the top pitchers in the country coming back, if not the top one back," Oklahoma State coach Sandy Fisher said.

Last year, Ward (20-6) teamed with third-team All America Amy Day (20-4) to form one of the nation's best pitching tandems. Now, OSU needs junior Carol Lauer (5-1) to step in for Day.

Other darkhorse candidates are Southwestern Louisiana, which returns four All Americas, and Nevada-Las Vegas, which features two-time All-America first baseman Cyndi Parus. **CS**

By DAVID SEIGERMAN

## SOFTBALL PRESEASON TOP 20

| TEAM               | '94 RECORD | COMMENTS                                                       |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Arizona         | 64-3       | Hit 13 more HRs than Pittsburgh Pirates in '94.                |
| 2. UCLA            | 43-14      | Bruins seek eighth title in 14 years.                          |
| 3. Fresno St.      | 49-16      | Bulldogs boast best outfield in country.                       |
| 4. Oklahoma St.    | 46-12      | Now or never for Cowgirls' nine seniors.                       |
| 5. UNLV            | 39-19      | Dropped two one-run games to UCLA in regional final.           |
| 6. SW Louisiana    | 57-5       | Four returnees hit .356 or better in '94.                      |
| 7. Utah            | 51-13      | WAC Frosh of the Year Alison Andrus back on the hill.          |
| 8. Washington      | 44-21      | Three-year-old program ready to make waves.                    |
| 9. Hawaii          | 51-14      | Australian battery powers Rainbow Wahine.                      |
| 10. CS-Northridge  | 52-10      | Lost coach, eight starters from '94 runner-up team.            |
| 11. Texas A&M      | 56-20      | INF Merry Mapp (46 RBI) heads solid corps of sophs.            |
| 12. California     | 40-21      | Young Bears squad won two regular season tourneys.             |
| 13. Missouri       | 40-23      | Tigers return six starters and top two pitchers.               |
| 14. Oregon         | 38-20      | SS Kathy Stahl led Ducks in HRs (8) and SBs (8).               |
| 15. CS-Fullerton   | 35-29      | Ended season on 18-4 tear.                                     |
| 16. Oklahoma       | 58-15      | New coach climbed aboard in late September.                    |
| 17. Florida St.    | 50-19      | The only three .300 hitters from '94 return for Seminoles.     |
| 18. Michigan       | 34-26      | Top hitter (.306) & pitcher (25-15) back in P/1B Kelly Kovach. |
| 19. Long Beach St. | 30-28      | One returnee (RF Nicole Ochoa) hit over .230 in '94.           |
| 20. Indiana        | 49-15      | Top four hitters, entire staff return.                         |

## PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

| POS. | NAME                | SCHOOL       | YR.   | 1994 STATS                           |
|------|---------------------|--------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| C    | Michelle Venturella | Indiana      | Sr.   | .418, 16 HR, 65 RBI, 17 doubles      |
| 1B   | Stephanie DeFeo     | SW Louisiana | Soph. | .435, 7 HR, 37 RBI, 0 errors         |
| 2B   | Jenny Dalton        | Arizona      | Jr.   | .434, 16 HR, 91 RBI, 18 doubles      |
| SS   | Laura Espinoza      | Arizona      | Sr.   | .392, 30 HR, 95 RBI, .887 SP         |
| 3B   | Jennifer Brundage   | UCLA         | Sr.   | .437, 4 HR, 39 RBI                   |
| OF   | Laura Berg          | Fresno State | Soph. | .349, 83 hits, 20 RBI                |
| OF   | Kathy Morton        | SW Louisiana | Sr.   | .440, 7 HR, 68 RBI                   |
| OF   | Robyn York          | Fresno State | Soph. | .424, 87 hits, 12-for-13 SB          |
| DH   | Amy Chellevoid      | Arizona      | Sr.   | .504, 122 hits, 47 RBI, 32 SB        |
| P    | Alison Andrus       | Utah         | Soph. | 32-8, 0.61 ERA, 17 Shutouts, 270 K   |
| P    | Maureen Brady       | Fresno State | Sr.   | 36-11, 0.98 ERA, 16 Shutouts, 195 K  |
| P    | Kim Ward            | Oklahoma St. | Sr.   | 20-6, 1.30 ERA, 221 K / 8 HR, 30 RBI |
| P    | Brooke Wilkins      | Hawaii       | Soph. | 29-8, 0.62 ERA, 295 K                |

## COLLEGE SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

### HUEY FERGUSON St. John's



In the course of his senior season, Ferguson became the school's all-time leader in career goals, career assists and career points. He is the only player in St. John's history to simultaneously hold the top spot in all three categories. Ferguson was the first soccer player in St. John's history to earn All-America honors, and he is the only player ever to be named Big East Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons.

### JANE RICHARDS Marquette



Though she's only a junior at Marquette, Richards is already a two-time, two-event conference champion. Richards set Great Midwest Conference outdoor track and field meet records in winning both the shot put (45 feet, 7 inches) and discus (142-4) events last May. Not coincidentally, Marquette is the two-time defending Great Midwest outdoor champion. Richards also holds school and conference records indoors in the shotput.



# DIVISION II DIGEST

This month: **BASEBALL, SOFTBALL**

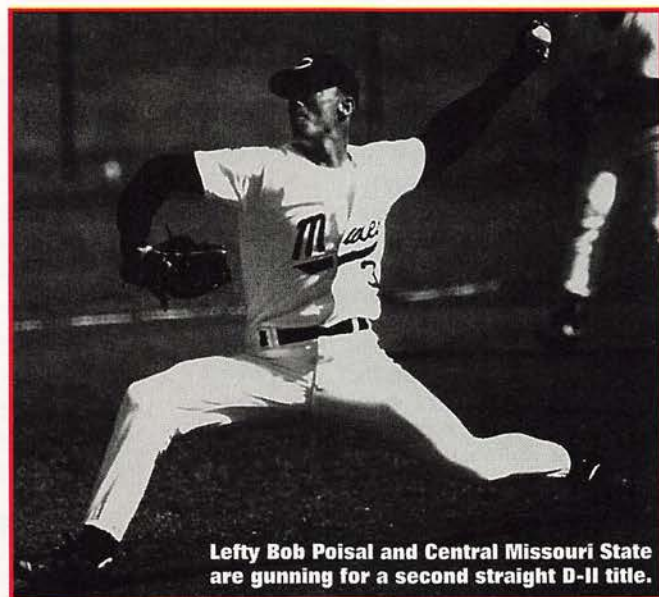
## FLORIDA SOUTHERN'S Discomfort Spurs '95 Quest

### BASEBALL

The drought had become substantial. Not by Boston Red Sox standards, of course. But Florida Southern baseball fans just aren't accustomed to waiting so long for a Division II national championship.

In winning seven titles from 1968-'88, the Moccasins never went more than three years between crowns. But the streak had ballooned to six springs in 1994 and Florida Southern planned on stopping the slide last year against Central Missouri State. The Mocs took a 5-1 lead into the fifth and seemed poised on the brink of an unprecedented eighth Division II championship. After all, pitching staffs with a combined season-long ERA of 2.55 and a school-record 579 strikeouts in 565 innings don't blow such comfortable leads with so much on the line.

Central Missouri, though, was more concerned with its own history. The Cardinal, which had never finished higher than a



Lefty Bob Poisal and Central Missouri State are gunning for a second straight D-II title.

fourth-place showing in '74, rallied for six runs in the sixth and ninth innings and stunned Southern with a 14-9 victory.

"If you're around the game so long, it's just one of those things that happen," Florida Southern coach Chuck Anderson said. "Believe me, our kids have it in their memory banks and they don't want that to happen again."

Several key Moccasins will not be back to avenge last season's disappointing finish. All-America pitchers David Harris, who was on the mound when the Mules started their comeback, and Tommy Szimanski, who took the loss in the title

game, have both advanced to the professional ranks, with the Angels and Mariners, respectively. Five other contributors have departed as well.

But the Mocs do return enough talent—and enough of a grudge—to be favored for the '95 championship. Twenty-three-year-old senior Jimmy Vida will be back at first after hitting .463 with 14 home runs and 89 RBI as a junior. Vida set a Division II record with 120 hits during the regular season, then capped his coming-out season by earning Most Outstanding Player honors at the national tournament. Anderson was shocked—and pleasantly surprised—that Vida passed undrafted. "Everyone overlooked him," Anderson said. "But, I'm tickled about it."

Why not? Vida will spearhead the offense for a team that should once again boast a top-notch staff. Senior southpaw Phil Harris (10-2, 2.56 in '94) will be the Mocs' ace, but he'll have plenty of support from three returnees and three junior college standouts. "We have pitchers who have quality experience here, and we have pitchers who have quality experience in other excellent programs," Anderson said.

Likewise, **Mansfield (Pa.)**

possesses a staff capable of carrying a team into contention. The Mountaineers have been to the national tournament each of the last three years, but could mount their most serious challenge for top honors behind juniors Bob Schleicher (7-0, 2.60) and David Shepard (8-3). Shepard, who was voted the top pro prospect in the Cape Cod League last summer, throws consistently in the 90s and coach Harry Hillson figures he'll be a first-round pick in the 1995 draft.

Mansfield also returns two first-team All-Americans in catcher John Michael Cook (.397, 11 HR, 61 RBI) and first baseman Tom McCauley (.393, 12 HR, 61 RBI). Centerfielder Pete Peters (.437) also will be back to solidify the outfield.

Pitching is also plentiful on the West Coast, where the **University of California at Riverside** returns all but seven wins from last year's staff. Starters Richard Guerrero, Grant Billingsley and Mike Eason combined for 24 victories a year ago, and Scott Tebbetts led all Division II closers with 12 saves. "We have nine guys we can throw out there and feel very good about," Riverside coach Jack Smith said.

**Lewis (Ill.)** returns a similarly talented staff. Juniors Mike Vabrek and Josh Barron both throw in the low 90s; "In Division II, you don't see that many guys throwing in the 90s, and we have couple of them right here," said Lewis coach Irish O'Reilly, who added Joliet Junior College (Ill.) standout Tony Pasch to his arsenal.

Of the top contenders, only defending champ **Central Missouri State** doesn't appear blessed with dominating pitching. First-year coach Brad Hill must replace four pitchers—Bob Poisal (12-2, eight complete games) is the most prominent returnee—not to mention seven position players from a lineup that had five players hit better than .350.

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SENIORS:** Joby Birr (SS) North Florida; John Michael Cook (C) Mansfield (Pa.); Colby Craig (P) UC Davis; Phil Harris (P) Florida Southern; Reid Hensley (P) Missouri-St. Louis; Willie Lee (CF) North Florida; Tom McCauley (1B) Mansfield; Greg Mullins (P) North Florida; Brett O'Dea (CF) UC Riverside; Andy Owen (RF) UC Riverside; Mike Prelock (P) UC Davis; Bob Poisal (P) Central Missouri St.; Scott Tebbetts (P) UC Riverside; Scott Veeder (P) CS-Dominguez Hills; Jimmy Vida

## COLLEGE SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

### DARIO DiFAZIO Oakland (Mich.)



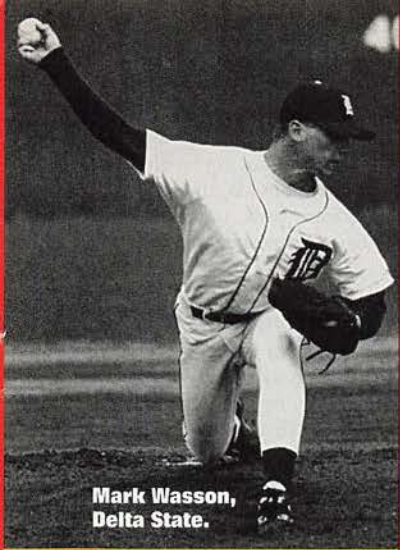
DiFazio won both the one- and three-meter diving national championships as a junior last season, setting national records on both boards in the process. His achievements earned him Division II Diver of the Year honors; DiFazio was the 1991 Junior College Diver of the Year at Miami-Dade (Fla.).

### HEATHER SWABOWICZ New Hampshire College



Swabowicz collected 25 goals and 6 assists as a sophomore in leading the Penmen to their sixth ECAC Division II title in 12 years. Swabowicz, who tied a school record with four goals against Bridgeport (Conn.), already ranks fourth in career goals (41) and career points (92) in NHC history.





**Mark Wasson,  
Delta State.**

(1B) Florida Southern; Mark Wasson (P) Delta St. (Miss.); Trevor Wolfe (P) Missouri-St. Louis. JUNIORS: Josh Barron (P) Lewis (Ill.); Brad Crede (SS) Central Missouri St.; Greg Edwards (OF) CS-Dominguez Hills; Dietrich Evans (C) Missouri-St. Louis; Brian Gibbons (CF) Lewis; Jason Page (DH) Delta St.; Mike Vabrek (P) Lewis; Bob Schleicher (P) Mansfield; David Shepard (P) Mansfield.

## SOFTBALL

Usually, a national tournament provides a Who's Who of that sport's prominent programs. The 1994 Division II softball championships, however, was more a collection of simply, "Who?"

None of the previous national champions were on hand when the final six convened in Shawnee, Kan., to determine the 1994 title. And when every participant is Cinderella, someone unheralded is going to walk away with top honors.

Last year, it was **Merrimack (Mass.)**, the tournament's fifth seed, which used a five-run fifth-inning rally to claim its first softball crown. So unexpected was Merrimack's win, coach Michele Myslinski remembers that her team's tournament host chose to sponsor the Warriors because he didn't figure an eastern school would stick around too long. "Our host told us we'd be two-and-out," Myslinski said.

Instead, Merrimack defeated Humboldt State (Calif.), the team that had eliminated pre-tourney favorite Cal State-Bakersfield in the regional finals.

"The number-one seed wasn't there, so we feel we still have a lot to prove to people," Myslinski said.

More important than justifying their champion status to a nation of naysayers, the Warriors must prove to themselves that they can win without three-

time All-America pitcher Kim Page, who pitched a complete-game four-hitter in the 6-2 win over Humboldt State. The bulk of the pitching responsibility will fall to junior Raffaella Paparo, who is as dangerous with the bat (.449, 10 home runs, 51 RBI in '94) as she is on the mound (10-2). "She was an All America as a freshman and sophomore and she still thinks she's terrible," Myslinski said.

If her confidence ever catches up to her ability, Paparo could help Merrimack become the first team to win consecutive championships since Bakersfield won three straight from '88-'90.

**Humboldt State**, though, is already confident of its chances. Three errors against Merrimack cost the Lumberjacks their first championship. Now, they too, have something to prove.

"The only difference between us and Merrimack is that they didn't make any errors," Humboldt coach Frank Cheek said. The biggest difference between the two this year is that Humboldt returns the bulk of its '94 roster. The pitching staff is back virtually intact and this season's club will feature nine seniors, including Kelly Wolfe (26-5,

other run. The Lady Mavericks have only one senior starter—rightfielder Theresa Tramp—but will contend barring a sophomore slump. Three second-year players compose the core of UNO's title hopes, led by Tracy Carey. A first-team All-America selection as a freshman, Carey provides coach Mary Yori with a weapon similar to the one Myslinski has in Paparo. Carey went 28-8 with a 1.40 ERA last season, and her offensive numbers (.441, 9 HR, 74 RBI, 26 doubles) were equally impressive.

Perhaps the only legitimate contender without a bonafide staff ace is **Florida Southern**. Senior Katy Cortelyou was an All America as a sophomore; in fact, she was the winning pitcher when the Moccasins won the '93 title. "She's a very consistent pitcher, and her work ethic has always been very good," Mocs coach Chris Bellotto said.

If Cortelyou can return to her sophomore form, Florida Southern has to be considered as much a front-runner as anyone. The Mocs can hit (.352 team average in '94) and they can run the bases (a school-record 127 steals a year ago). Two-time All-America shortstop Shelly Davis, third-team

**Preseason CS All-Star  
outfielder Anetra Torres is  
one of many returnees at  
Humboldt State.**



0.98 ERA), the Pitcher of the Year in the Northern California Athletic Conference, and middle infielder Apple Gomez, whose eight homers led the NCAC last year. Gomez's value was never more evident than at the national tournament, when she opened four of Humboldt's games with extra-base hits.

**Nebraska-Omaha**, which lost to both Merrimack and Humboldt State in finishing third at last year's nationals, will be without its top two power hitters but still figures to make an-

All-America third baseman Patty Fleig and centerfielder Keisha Hardy all hit over .400 last season. Hardy led the Mocs with 45 steals in 48 attempts; outfielder Traci Wood (.371) is also a threat on the basepaths (21-for-23).

Of course, no list of contenders would be complete without last year's best bet, **Cal State-Bakersfield**. The Roadrunners return three of their top hitters in shortstop Cricket Garcia (.408), second baseman Kim Barron (.401) and catcher Suzanne Collins (.382, 42 RBI).

## PRESEASON RANKINGS

### Baseball

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Florida Southern          | (6) 95 |
| 2. Mansfield (Pa.)           | (2) 62 |
| 3. UC Riverside              | (1) 61 |
| 4. Lewis (Ill.)              | 54     |
| 5. Central Missouri State    | (1) 45 |
| 6. North Florida             | 39     |
| 7. Armstrong State (Ga.)     | 33     |
| 8. Tampa (Fla.)              | 29     |
| 9. Cal State-Dominguez Hills | 28     |
| 10. Delta State (Miss.)      | 26     |

### Softball

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. Humboldt State (Calif.) | (3) 74 |
| 2. Nebraska-Omaha          | (2) 69 |
| 3. Merrimack (Mass.)       | (3) 64 |
| 4. Florida Southern        | 59     |
| 5. Cal State-Bakersfield   | (2) 54 |
| 6. Bloomsburg (Pa.)        | 37     |
| 7. Augustana (S.D.)        | 36     |
| 8. Central Missouri State  | 31     |
| 9. Barry (Fla.)            | 24     |
| 10. Kennesaw State (Ga.)   | 12     |

All the preseason Top 10 rankings are compiled by COLLEGE SPORTS and reflect coaches' rankings. A first-place vote receives 10 points, second place nine, etc. Total points are tabulated in the far right-hand column. All first-place votes are in parentheses.

Plus, Bakersfield will have one of last year's ERA leaders back; Kelly Stone (15-1, 0.50) finished second in the nation to teammate Kristine Karr (0.49).

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS:** SENIORS: Kim Barron (2B) CS-Bakersfield; Tonya Carlisle (3B) Kennesaw St. (Ga.); Suzanne Collins (C) CS-Bakersfield; Shawna Currier (SS) Merrimack (Mass.); Cricket Garcia (SS) CS-Bakersfield; Apple Gomez (2B/SS) Humboldt St. (Calif.); Brenda Moffatt (C) Bloomsburg (Pa.); Judy O'Connell (C) Merrimack; Beth Savage (C) Central Missouri St.; Colleen Thorburn (C) Kennesaw St.; Anetra Torres (LF) Humboldt St.; Jeanne Tostenson (CF) Augustana (S.D.); Paula U'Ren (C) Augustana; Kelly Wolfe (P) Humboldt St. JUNIORS: Laura Carlson (RF) Merrimack; Shelly Davis (SS) Florida Southern; Rochelle Dierkes (P) California (Pa.); Patty Fleig (3B) Florida Southern; Jennifer Fritz (1B) Humboldt St.; Keisha Hardy (CF) Florida Southern; Jen Lefever (SS) Bloomsburg; Daniela Paparo (2B) Merrimack; Raffaella Paparo (CF/P) Merrimack; Kelly Rafter (P) Kennesaw St.; Kelly Stone (P) CS-Bakersfield; Jen Wagner (1B) California. SOPHOMORES: Mandee Berg (P) Central Missouri St.; Tracy Carey (P) Nebraska-Omaha; Cara Dornstauder (1B) Kennesaw St.; Toni Novak (2B) Nebraska-Omaha. **CS**

By DAVID SEIGERMAN



# DIVISION III DIGEST

This month: **BASEBALL, SOFTBALL**

## Defending Champs Map Out Repeat Plans

### BASEBALL

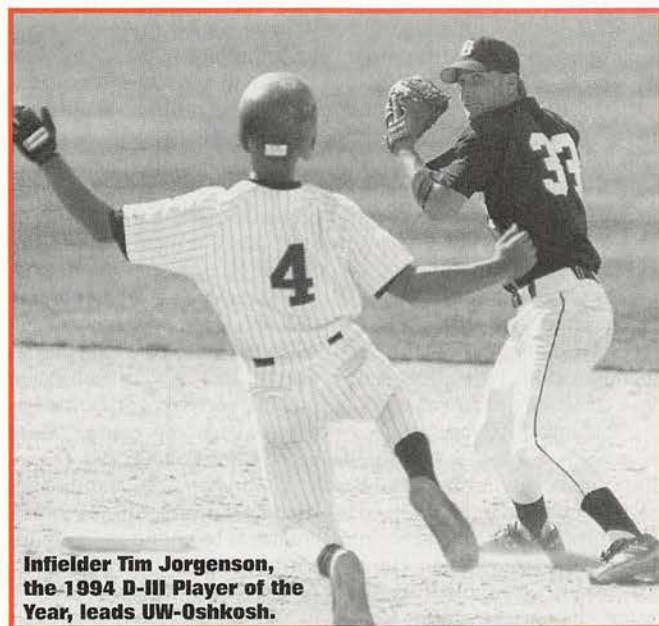
In his preparation for the 1995 season, the item of most value to Tom Lechnir is a Rand McNally road atlas. Most coaches spend their times laboring over what it will take for their team to get to the Division III World Series; Lechnir need only worry about how his defending national champs at Wisconsin-Oshkosh are going to get there.

Making travel plans for the Series isn't exactly uncharted territory for the Titans. Lechnir has been to 13 Series with Oshkosh as player, assistant and head coach. But the Series will be held in Salem, Va., for the first time this year, and Lechnir wants to leave nothing to chance.

"We've been to every city the World Series has been played in. For some of our players, this is their last go-round and they want to see what Salem, Va., is all about," Lechnir said. "It's our goal every year to get there. We don't hope to get there; we expect to get there."

There's no reason not to expect another return trip for the Titans, who beat Wesleyan (Conn.) last year for their second national title. Oshkosh will have seven regulars back in the lineup and four of its top pitchers back on the hill. "I'd say we have a legitimate chance to defend our national championship," Lechnir said.

Undoubtedly, the most vital returnee is senior Tim Jorgensen, the 1994 Division III Player of the Year who will switch from shortstop to third base. After posting phenomenal numbers as a junior—23 home



Infielder Tim Jorgensen, the 1994 D-III Player of the Year, leads UW-Oshkosh.

runs, 64 RBI, .455 average, .968 slugging percentage—Jorgensen was selected by the San Diego Padres in the 28th round of the amateur draft. Lechnir spent all summer preparing for Jorgensen's departure for the pros, but was pleasantly shocked when he walked into his office on the first day of school and learned his star would be back to terrorize D-III pitchers for another year. "It's nice to be coaching a team with the best player in the country," Lechnir said.

And, once again, the best player in the country will be protected in the order by right-fielder Jeff Zappa, the MVP of the regional tournament, and first baseman Craig Lieder (.346, 11 HR, 43 RBI). It also helps to have what Lechnir calls the "top two pitchers in the country." Sophomore southpaw Jarrod Washburn (6-1, 2.03 ERA), who won the title-clincher as a freshman, and junior righthander Kevin Mlodik (8-0, 0.93) both consistently throw in the low 90s.

With such a wealth of talent, it is well within reason that, by season's end, the Titan seniors will have enjoyed the most suc-

cessful four-year run in the program's history (possibly two first-place finishes, one second and one third).

If anyone has even a remote chance to make a run at Oshkosh, Montclair State (N.J.) would have to be considered the favorite for runner-up status. But the Red Hawks lost five seniors and had two juniors drafted, so any upset hopes rest on the development of their staff. Junior pitchers John Carlon (7-2) and T.J. Costello (5-0) are the anchors, and coach Norm Schoenig has big plans for fresh-

man Michael Orth and junior college transfer Brian Cordeiro.

At least Schoenig has little to worry about in his infield. Three starters are back, including All-America third baseman Ralph Yezza (.441, 14 HR, 64 RBI) and Tony Martinez, a four-year starter at shortstop.

University of California at San Diego also has some key returnees, especially up the middle of its defense. Catcher Al DelFavero (.391), second baseman Eric Quandt (.296) and shortstop Chris Miyake (.400, 41 RBI) are all back for their senior seasons, and junior Jason Aguilar is a defensive dynamo in center. The problem for the Tritons is finding an ace for the rotation.

That's not a concern for Charlie Long, who will serve as head coach at North Carolina Wesleyan while Mike Fox takes a year off. Long's squad is long on pitching. John Cinnamon, Jason Jenkins and Carroll Lewis were a combined 16-0 a year ago; closer Stan Mohn (7-2 in a school-record 27 appearances) is also back for the Battling Bishops. The key will be finding a way to score runs; the Bishops averaged 11.5 runs per game last season but lost seven seniors and two draftees who combined for 50 home runs.

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SENIORS:** John Becker (1B) Cal Lutheran; Will Brendenberger (RF) Wesleyan (Conn.); Craig Brewer (P) Wesleyan; Al DelFavero (C) UCSD; Chad Farmer (P) Marietta (Ohio); Brian Ford (P) Methodist (N.C.); Joe Funnaro (2B) E. Connecticut St.; Terry Gladis (CF) Wooster (Ohio); Mark Johnson (2B) Marietta; Tim Jorgensen (3B) UW-Oshkosh; Jason Lariviere (CF) Southern Maine; Ed Mahoney (P) Ithaca (N.Y.); Jeff Marks (LF) Cal Lutheran; Tony Martinez

## COLLEGE SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

### KRIS THERIAULT Fitchburg St. (Mass.)



As a junior at the 1994 Division III track and field national meet, Theriault won the javelin competition with a school- and meet-record throw of 236 feet, 6 inches. The three-time All America and conference champion also set a school football record with a 72-yard punt return as a sophomore.

### AMY ALBERS Washington (Mo.)



The consensus choice as Player of the Year in 1993, Albers is one of the most efficient hitters in volleyball history. Her .553 hitting percentage is an NCAA all-division record. Her .765 percentage in a November regional tournament win over Trinity is a Division III tourney record.





Senior centerfielder and CS All Star Terry Gladis (right) hopes to lead Wooster into the Top 10 this season.

(SS) Montclair St. (N.J.); Chris Miyake (SS) UCSD; Ralph Yezza (3B) Montclair St. JUNIORS: Chris Bryant (3B) N.C. Wesleyan; Chris Culbreth (CF) Methodist; Nick Donatelli (P) Wooster; Kevin Mlodik (P) UW-Oshkosh. SOPHOMORE: Jarrod Washburn (P) UW-Oshkosh.

## SOFTBALL

June Walker sees a simple and direct correlation: what happens between the ears dictates what happens between the foul lines.

"In a stop-action sport like softball, you have to think and plan and move and play percentages. It's more fun to out-think people than anything else," Walker said.

With Walker's 22-year track record as head coach at **Trenton State (N.J.)**, who can argue with her philosophy? Walker's teams have out-thought—and out-hit, out-pitched, out-everythinged—their way to five national championships. At no time were Walker's chess-match tendencies more evident than last year, when Trenton State won all four of its national tournament games by one run. "After a tournament you win, you can usually characterize your team as the best defensively, the best offensively or the best pitching-wise," Walker said. "Last year, we were just good enough in everything. It scared us to death at times, but it was exciting."

Trenton State should be similarly exciting this year, not to mention similarly dominating if for no other reason than the return of Division III Player of the

Year Michelle Carlson. After sitting out the 1993 season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament, Carlson showed no ill effects of the injury last year, setting school single-season records for batting average (.574), home runs (20), RBI (90), slugging percentage (1.196) and doubles (22). "She worked so hard and came back so strong," Walker said. "She's the only person I've ever seen come back a step faster."

In addition to Carlson, Trenton State features a supporting cast that would be worthy of top billing anywhere else. Senior centerfielder Rachel Hudak hit .522 and scored 44 runs on her way to her All-America honors, and senior Robin Selbst is coming off an All-America season as a utility player. Selbst, a field hockey All America who was the placekicker on her high school football team, will start at second base this year.

If first-year pitching coach Erine Greene can find someone to replace the 21-1 mark she recorded as a senior a year ago, Trenton State should be the head-and-shoulders favorite to accomplish the one feat that has eluded Walker. "One thing I want to do before retiring is win two in a row," Walker said.

The biggest obstacle between Walker and her goal is **Central (Iowa)**, which has won the last two championships not claimed by Trenton State ('91, '93). Junior Missey Allen—a first-team All America who led the nation in ERA (0.25) as a

freshman—will again anchor the Flying Dutch staff.

The key to Central's chances will be the performance of a pair of widely recruited freshmen: pitcher Kara Stanley, who will be asked to replace four-year starter Emily Grimes, and outfielder Annesa Conrad, who hit .620 and was perfect in 91 stolen base attempts as a high school senior. "We don't have the holes to fill that we did last year," coach George Wares said. "The key will be whether Stanley or another pitcher can do it for us."

**Bridgewater (Mass.)**, which lost 6-5 to Trenton State in last year's title game, has the bulk of its young roster back to make a serious run at the top. Sharon Martin, one of only two seniors on the roster, will handle most of the pitching duties. Three of the four freshmen who started last season—rightfielder Kristy Wilbur, shortstop Kristin Guerette and utility player Danielle England—are back in the lineup; the only loss was first-team All-America first baseman Angela Constantine, who transferred to UConn.

With the nationals scheduled to be played in Storm Lake, Iowa, **Buena Vista** has to be con-



Buena Vista ace Heather White.

sidered a legitimate contender, even though the Beavers failed to qualify for the six-team field the last two times they hosted the tournament. Coach Marge Willadsen will have to do without last year's national ERA leader Amy Haeder (0.47), but senior Heather White (16-4, 0.99) is well-suited for the role of staff ace. Plus, Buena Vista will fill the right side of its infield

## PRESEASON RANKINGS

### Baseball

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. UW-Oshkosh               | (10) 100 |
| 2. Montclair St. (N.J.)     | 56       |
| 3. UC San Diego             | 44       |
| 4. N.C. Wesleyan            | 43       |
| 5t. Southern Maine          | 38       |
| 5t. Cal Lutheran            | 38       |
| 7. Marietta (Ohio)          | 37       |
| 8. Ithaca (N.Y.)            | 36       |
| 9. Wesleyan (Conn.)         | 35       |
| 10. Eastern Connecticut St. | 28       |

### Softball

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. Trenton St. (N.J.)      | (8) 98 |
| 2. Central (Iowa)          | (1) 82 |
| 3. Bridgewater (Mass.)     | (1) 78 |
| 4. Buena Vista (Iowa)      | 68     |
| 5. Rowan (N.J.)            | 52     |
| 6. Allegheny (Pa.)         | 43     |
| 7. Eastern Connecticut St. | 23     |
| 8. Montclair St. (N.J.)    | 22     |
| 9. Illinois Benedictine    | 18     |
| 10. Simpson (Iowa)         | 17     |

All the preseason Top 10 rankings are compiled by COLLEGE SPORTS and reflect coaches' rankings. A first-place vote receives 10 points, second place nine, etc. Total points are tabulated in the far right-hand column. All first-place votes are in parentheses.

with returning All Americas Michelle Tesdahl (.400, team-high 36 RBI) at first and Megan Coe (team-leading .414 average and 17 steals) at second. "It's a tough road to get to our own tournament," Willadsen said. "But, I definitely feel we'll be back."

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SENIORS:** Beth Aulerich (P) Alma (Mich.); Michelle Carlson (3B) Trenton St. (N.J.); Megan Coe (2B) Buena Vista (Iowa); Tara Dickert (3B) Allegheny (Pa.); Jennifer Flinn (2B) Montclair St. (N.J.); Gretchen Herudek (SS) Trenton St.; Julie Hoffman (P) Alma; Rachel Hudak (CF) Trenton St.; Jen Jacobs (C) Allegheny; Jodi Robinson (P) Allegheny; Jeanie Rodgers (CF) Rowan (N.J.); Robin Selbst (2B) Trenton St.; Michelle Tesdahl (1B) Buena Vista; Heather White (P) Buena Vista. **JUNIORS:** Missey Allen (P) Central (Iowa); Jeanine Bleau (SS) Ithaca (N.Y.); Jen Blum (3B) Ithaca; Peggyann Coker (P) Rowan; Jen Goodwin (3B) Bridgewater (Mass.); Deanna Hunt (P) Buffalo St. (N.Y.); Laurie Machuga (P) Allegheny; Joy Pittner (SS) Rowan. **SOPHOMORES:** Jamie Musey (1B) Rowan; Nikki Swan (P) Ithaca; Kristy Wilbur (RF) Bridgewater. **FRESHMEN:** Keely Bowman (SS) Buena Vista; Annesa Conrad (OF) Central; Andi Royster (3B) Buena Vista. **CS**

By DAVID SEIGERMAN



# JUCO DIGEST

This month: **BASEBALL, SOFTBALL**

## Beach Blanket Baseball Is a Hit

### DIV. I BASEBALL

It's difficult to determine the most impressive element of the meteoric rise of the **Galveston (Texas)** baseball program: the how, the where or the how much?

The how part, actually, is easy. It's tied directly to the where, or

usually pretty good to begin with. Last year's squad featured rightfielder Justin Bowles, the NJCAA Player of the Year, who now plays for Louisiana State. The Whitecaps lineup this year will include sophomores Mark Cridland (.307, 6 HR, 30 RBI) and Karl Chatman (.335, 32 steals).

Sunshine and standouts aside, perhaps the most intriguing factor behind Galveston's success has been the Moody Foundation, an insurance banking group from Galveston which helps fund projects at a variety of Texas col-

**All-Tourney shortstop Brandy Brenczewski looks to lead Joliet back to the JUCO D-III World Series.**



at least location was a critical factor before the Whitecaps won the NJCAA Division I national championship in 1994, their third year of existence. All coach Dick Smith had to sell at the start was a chance for native Texans to come play baseball in a fabulous resort community on the Gulf of Mexico. "It's a little resort mecca," Smith said.

Since word started to spread of Galveston's Beach Blanket Baseball—the fact that players are housed in the Casa del Mar condominiums overlooking the Gulf is usually the deal-closer—Smith has had his pick of talented prospects. "The important thing is that we have kids committed to becoming better baseball players," Smith said.

The ones Galveston get are

legues. "All my salary, all the assistants' salaries, scholarship money, equipment money, it all comes from the grant process," Smith said.

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SOPHOMORES:** Kevin Alvarado (3B) Connors St. (Okla.); Heath Askew (P) Connors St.; Karl Chatman (CF) Galveston (Texas); Cory Coggburn (RF) Seminole (Okla.); Mark Cridland (P/DH) Galveston; Jake Estevez (P) Sacramento City (Calif.); Chris Havens (P) Triton (Ill.); Conan Horton (C) Sacramento City; Mark Manbeck (P) Galveston; Derek Mitchell (SS) Triton; Joe Nelson (3B) Seminole; John Rodriguez (RF) Connors St.; Randy Stearns (OF) Triton.

### DIV. II BASEBALL

If all goes according to coach Paul MacLaughlin's plan, the baseball team at **Brookdale (N.J.)** will have to change its

| PRESEASON RANKINGS          |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Division I Baseball</b>  | <b>Division III Baseball</b> |
| 1. Galveston (Texas)        | 1. Joliet (Ill.)             |
| 2. Triton (Ill.)            | 2. Gloucester (N.J.)         |
| 3. Sacramento City (Calif.) | 3. North Lake (Texas)        |
| 4. Rancho Santiago (Calif.) | 4. Madison Area Tech (Wis.)  |
| 5. Connors St. (Okla.)      | 5. DuPage (Ill.)             |
| <b>Division II Baseball</b> | <b>Fast-pitch Softball</b>   |
| 1. Brookdale (N.J.)         | 1. Glendale (Ariz.)          |
| 2. Lincoln Land (Ill.)      | 2. Central Arizona           |
| 3. Potomac St. (W.Va.)      | 3. Sacramento City (Calif.)  |
| 4. Massasoit (Mass.)        | 4. Ranger (Texas)            |
| 5. Morris Co. (N.J.)        | 5. Long Beach City (Calif.)  |

All preseason rankings are compiled by COLLEGE SPORTS.

name after this season. After all, this could be the year that the Jersey Blues—the team with the best record (78-13) over the two years of NJCAA Division II baseball—capture their first national championship.

Four pitchers were drafted off last year's 41-5 team that was upset by Morris County (N.J.) in the regional finals. But, the Blues bring in Troy State (Ala.) transfer Dwayne Eason and local freshman Jason Pozo to minimize the mound losses.

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SOPHOMORES:** Tom Briggs (CF) Massasoit (Mass.); Mike Condon (SS) Brookdale (N.J.); Andy Danner (P) Lincoln Land (Ill.); Brandon Dougherty (SS) Potomac St. (W.Va.); Mike Duvall (P) Potomac St.; Mike Faehrich (2B) Morris Co. (N.J.); Theo Fefee (CF) Lincoln Land; Chris Novelli (CF) Brookdale; Jose Sanders (SS) Massasoit; Greg Sieders (SS) Lincoln Land.

### DIV. III BASEBALL

There wasn't any fanfare or ticker tape. But, at least, winning the NJCAA Division III baseball championship had a nice ring to it. "I've been to a lot of clinics and functions, and a lot of people don't even know who I am. All they see is a nice ring on my finger," said Wayne King, who coached **Joliet (Ill.)** to the 1994 title.

Additional attention should follow as the Wolves return 10 sophomores, six of whom started a year ago.

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SOPHOMORES:** Frank Alloway (P) Gloucester (N.J.); Ed Baranak (C) Joliet (Ill.); Matt Dunne (3B) Joliet; Mark Gotts (OF) Joliet; Chris Kilen (OF/P) Madison Area Tech (Wis.); Barry Michtig (3B), Madison Area Tech; Kyle Neubauer (OF/P) Madison Area Tech; Robert Partridge (P) Richland (Texas); John Polillo (P) Gloucester.

### FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL

Though she's entering her first season as head coach at **Glendale (Ariz.)**, Laura Dodrill is already well-versed on the historic rivalry between the Gauchos and nearby nemesis **Central Arizona**. And why not? She helped write several of the chapters herself.

Before transferring to Oklahoma State as a junior, Dodrill was an All-America second baseman at Central. She played under coach Mike Candrea, who is currently the coach of college softball's premier power at Division I Arizona, and was a member of the Central squad that went 30-0 through Arizona Community College Athletic Conference play in 1985.

"This is the toughest conference in the country," Dodrill said, no doubt aware that 10 of the last 12 NJCAA fast-pitch champs were from the Grand Canyon State.

The biggest change from outside Arizona is the addition of 25 teams from Florida, including defending NJCAA slow-pitch champ **Tallahassee**, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi are the only states still playing slow-pitch. **Meridian (Miss.)** and **Abraham Baldwin (Ala.)** should battle for top slow-pitch honors.

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SOPHOMORES:** Andrea Benford (CF) Glendale (Ariz.); Stacy Bloomfield (P) Phoenix (Ariz.); Jessie Boyd (CF) Phoenix; Bonnie Bruton (RF) Sacramento City (Calif.); Trish Goree (1B) Ranger (Texas); Bridgette Jackson (3B) Central Arizona; Renae Mohammed (P) Central Arizona; Dletra Sherwood (OF) Ranger; Alanna Strickland (SS) Ranger; Jackie Strohman (LF) Sacramento; Vicki Trumble (2B/SS) Glendale; Valerie Waller (SS) Tallahassee (Fla.). **CS**

By DAVID SEIGERMAN



# NAIA DIGEST

This month: **SOFTBALL, BASEBALL**

## Easy Road To The Title For The 'BUS DRIVER'



Tracey Mosley, Oklahoma City.

enth-place finish, the worst in six trips to the national tournament. Something, McSpadden decided, needed to be changed.

"We don't do anything in the fall anymore," McSpadden said. "We do some weight training a couple of days a week, but we don't even scrimmage in the fall anymore. In the fall, the players



Tina Holmes, Oklahoma City.

### SOFTBALL

Phil McSpadden fancies himself a hard worker, a dedicated employee who sincerely wants to earn his keep. But, if not working is going to produce better results for his **Oklahoma City** softball team, then coach McSpadden is willing to kick back, relax and wait for accolades to roll in.

McSpadden stumbled upon his new coaching philosophy last season after trying to determine why the Lady Chiefs' hard preseason work wasn't paying postseason dividends. In 1992, for example, McSpadden fielded what he still considers the best ballclub in his eight years at OCU. He scheduled a rigorous 30-game fall season to prepare his squad for its spring slate, but the season culminated in a sev-

don't even call me 'Coach.' They refer to me as the bus driver. I don't feel like I'm doing my job."

It may not feel like it to McSpadden, but his job is getting done better than ever. In 1993, the first year of the laid-back era at OCU, the Lady Chiefs finished second to West Florida. Last season, they won their first national championship. Coincidence? Not hardly.

"People say, 'Yeah, McSpadden won a national title, but he didn't do anything,'" McSpadden said.

That, of course, is far from the truth. It is McSpadden who imported some of the NAIA's top talent, and it has been his calculated risk of routine that has kept OCU from peaking at spring break.

If this collection of Lady Chiefs peaks at the right time again, coaches across the country may start scheduling nap-time instead of preseason games. But while they may emulate McSpadden's new no-work, just-play philosophy, it would certainly help to have the kind of talent available at OCU.

The Lady Chiefs return three first-team All Americas: pitcher Tammy Braithwaite (22-1, 0.86 ERA), third baseman Tracey Mosley (.448) and catcher Jennifer Wells (.315). They also have a top-notch No. 2 starter in Tina Holmes (17-5, 1.04) and have brought in freshman Cherene Hiesl, a speedy outfielder from the Canadian national team.

Few teams can boast similar talent, though **West Florida** and **Athens State (Ala.)**, last year's runner-up, may have enough to challenge OCU. West Florida has an entirely new outfield, but is solid in the infield with returnees Jill Penderghast and Tiffany Clary—who combined for 60 stolen bases in 66 attempts—and on the mound with sophomore Leann Buneta (21-10, 1.79, 151 strikeouts) and senior Marcy Herrera (18-7, 1.22). Athens State coach Larry Keenum will fill out the most powerful lineup card in the country, with names like Melissa Dowlen, who hit .483 and set single-season school records for home runs (21) and RBI (99), her twin sister, Melinda (.492, 18 HR, 85 RBI), and Kelly Seamons (.375, 11 HR).

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS: SENIORS:** Amy Allingham (SS) Hawaii Pacific; Tammy Braithwaite (P) Oklahoma City; Tiffany Clary (SS) West Florida; Melinda Dowlen (C) Athens St. (Ala.); Melissa

### PRESEASON RANKINGS

#### Softball

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Oklahoma City                | (8) 97 |
| 2. West Florida                 | 76     |
| 3. Athens St. (Ala.)            | (1) 68 |
| 4. Pacific Lutheran (Wash.)     | (1) 54 |
| 5. Hawaii Pacific               | 47     |
| 6. Huntingdon (Ala.)            | 40     |
| 7. Mobile (Ala.)                | 38     |
| 8. St. Mary's (Texas)           | 28     |
| 9. William Woods (Mo.)          | 21     |
| 10. Southern California College | 18     |

#### Baseball

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Southeastern Oklahoma St.    | (6) 95 |
| 2. Dallas Baptist (Texas)       | (1) 82 |
| 3. Lewis-Clark St. (Idaho)      | (3) 79 |
| 4. Coker (S.C.)                 | 54     |
| 5. Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.) | 34     |
| 5t. St. Francis (Ill.)          | 34     |
| 7. Cumberland (Tenn.)           | 30     |
| 8. Oklahoma City                | 23     |
| 9. St. Ambrose (Iowa)           | 19     |
| 10. Bellevue (Neb.)             | 18     |

All the preseason Top 10 rankings are compiled by COLLEGE SPORTS and reflect coaches' rankings. A first-place vote receives 10 points, second place nine, etc. Total points are tabulated in the far right-hand column. First-place votes are shown in parentheses.

Dowlen (3B) Athens St.; Andrea Farquhar (1B) Pacific Lutheran (Wash.); Kisha Frey (P) Athens St.; Marcy Herrera (P) West Florida; Katie Mahoney (C) Mobile (Ala.); Tracey Mosley (3B) Oklahoma City; Tracy Rodkin (LF) Hawaii Pacific; Kelly Seamons (SS) Athens St.; Lisa Shandy (P) Hawaii Pacific. **JUNIORS:** April Faircloth (P/1B) Belmont (Tenn.); Lisa Greenwall (P) William Woods (Mo.); Tina Holmes (P) Oklahoma City; Danya Howse (SS) Lambuth (Tenn.); Julie Meadow (RF) Lambuth. **SOPHOMORES:** Leann Buneta (P) West Florida; Kelli Smith (3B) St. Mary's (Texas); Kim Stanfill (C) Belmont. **FRESHMAN:** Cherene Hiesl (LF) Oklahoma City.

### COLLEGE SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

**JASON STILES**  
Western Washington



A 6-foot-3, 205-pound junior quarterback for the Vikings, Stiles threw his school-record 35th touchdown pass back in a September game against Western Oregon. Later in the season against Simon Fraser (B.C., Canada), Stiles became only the second QB in school history to throw for more than 5,000 yards.

### BASEBALL

What Mike Metheny didn't know actually wound up hurting him. Metheny, the coach at **Southeastern Oklahoma State**, wasn't at all familiar with Kennesaw State (Ga.), the team his Savages would meet twice in the 1994 NAIA World Series. Southeastern dropped a one-run decision to the Owls in the tournament opener, then got shut out for the first time all year in the championship game. "I didn't know anything about them," Metheny said. "They slipped in, got it, slipped out and they're gone."



## NAIA Digest

Gone to NCAA Division II, in fact, leaving Southeastern—the national runner-up each of the last two seasons—as the favorite to claim the 1995 championship. And Metheny's desire to avenge the surprising losses to Kennesaw pales in comparison to his hunger for that elusive title. "When you finish runner-up, it gives you a great deal of satisfaction in one way," Metheny said. "But, to be that close and get beat will definitely disappoint you. Now, Southeastern Oklahoma would like to win a national championship."

With five key seniors returning, the Savages certainly have the ability and the experience deserving of front-runner status. Righthander Clint Gilchrist (10-3) heads a strong staff, and infielders Kevin Rodden (.342), Corey Claborn (.337) and Punky Clay (.325) solidify a reliable lineup.

But the one thing missing from the Southeastern arsenal, in Metheny's estimation, is the one big gun. All-America center-fielder Richard Lopez, who won the hustle award at the national tourney, could have fit that role. But Lopez withdrew from school midway through the fall semester for personal reasons. "He was a tremendous player, the kind of kid that gets you over the hump," Metheny said.

Without Lopez, Southeastern's title hopes hinge solely on its depth. "I don't think other teams necessarily fear us. We don't have any of those killers on our team," Metheny said. "We don't have great speed

or great power, we don't do anything that will really knock your eyes out. But, we are a real steady ballclub."

While Metheny waits for that one superstar to surface, **Dallas Baptist (Texas)** coach Jim Harp need look no further than the right side of his infield. The top two players returning to the Patriots lineup are first baseman Jason Parsons, a second-team All America in '94, and second baseman Sean Travers, who earned honorable mention All-America honors a year ago. Both Parsons and Travers are seniors, both batted .406 and both were key factors in Dallas Baptist's run last year; the Patriots finished third at the nationals, losing one-run games to both Kennesaw State and Southeastern Oklahoma.

With 6-foot-5, 200-pound junior Mike Simmons (11-3, 3.27 ERA)—an intimidating righthander who throws consistently in the low 90s—back on the mound, Dallas Baptist has the firepower to mount another legitimate challenge.

**Lewis-Clark State (Idaho)** is also about due for a return to the NAIA's elite. The Warriors saw their streak of six straight national championships—eight in a nine-year span—end in 1992 and are ready to re-emerge.

Lewis-Clark will go as far as its staff allows. The Warriors return senior Jack Gullard, who went 7-3 and pitched a no-hitter against Oregon State, and sophomore Matt Foran (5-2), the Most Outstanding

Pitcher on the Canadian national team last summer. Gullard and Foran are just two of seven lefthanders coach Ed Cheff has at his disposal. The premier righthander is transfer Matt Wagner, who went 12-1 at Cal State-Fullerton a year ago.

This could be the year **Coker (S.C.)** establishes itself among the NAIA's best. Coker finished fifth nationally last year in the third season of the program's existence and the pitching is there for the Cobras to continue their rapid ascent to the top.

Seniors Sam Arminio and Brian James combined for 21 victories a year ago, and will be joined by Scott Frye, who went 17-2 in two seasons at Connors State Junior College (Okla.).

**COLLEGE SPORTS ALL STARS:** SENIORS: Sam Arminio (P) Coker (S.C.); Rick Balias (LF) Cumberland (Tenn.); Corey Claborn (3B) SE Oklahoma; David Dehaan (1B) St. Francis (Ill.); Nick DeLuca (SS) Bellevue (Neb.); Doug Ferry (RF) St. Francis; Brian James (P) Coker; Clint Gilchrist (P) SE Oklahoma; Jack Gullard (P) Lewis-Clark St. (Idaho); Chad Hopkins (1B) Bellevue; Germaine Hunter (P) Bellevue; John Kehoe (2B) Cumberland; John McAnich (C) Lewis-Clark St.; Jason Parsons (1B) Dallas Baptist (Texas); Kevin Rodden (2B) SE Oklahoma; Sean Travers (2B) Dallas Baptist; Lou Warner (C) Coker; Marce Wilson (P) Bellevue. JUNIORS: Jason Flach (P) St. Ambrose (Iowa); Alex Fernandez (LF) St. Thomas (Fla.); Steve Langhans (2B) Southern Arkansas; Sammy Mathis (P) Southern Arkansas; Mike Simmons (P) Dallas Baptist. SOPHOMORE: Matt Foran (P) Lewis-Clark St. **CS**

BY DAVID SEIGERMAN

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# THE LAST WORD

BY SONNY VACCARO

Sonny Vaccaro knows basketball, and those involved in basketball know Sonny Vaccaro.

In 1965, Vaccaro started the Dapper Dan Classic, the first showcase event for high school basketball standouts. Soon the biggest names in coaching were adding the Classic to their recruiting travel itinerary, and everyone was taking notice. This charitable event, which three years ago became the Magic Johnson Roundball Classic, is now entering its 30th year.

As his influence grew, so did a small shoe company called Nike. During his association with Nike from 1977-'91, Vaccaro was responsible for the development and implementation of the Nike Basketball Program, arguably the most dominant sports marketing program of its kind. It was Vaccaro who was instrumental in Nike landing one of sports marketing's grandest coups: the signing of basketball superstar Michael Jordan and the unveiling of its Air Jordan line.

In 1984, Vaccaro helped create the ABCD camp, sponsored at first by Nike and now by adidas. And while Vaccaro knows marketing, shoes and camps, he also knows the kids better than anyone. For the past 30 years, he's worked personally with the players who've produced some of college basketball's greatest moments—players such as Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley and Dikembe Mutombo.

Vaccaro has watched the game of college basketball grow and change, so we asked him for his thoughts on the state of college basketball today.

I have actually been involved in sports my whole life, first as a youngster growing up in a small Western Pennsylvania steel town called Trafford, then when I began running basketball camps, promoting all-star games, promoting benefit

games and also creating my own marketing company with professional athletes. I was also intimately involved in helping Nike evolve into one of the biggest corporate entities in the world.

Through my travels, I have witnessed a change in intercollegiate athletics equal to Henry Ford getting people to ride in cars rather than on horses.

After allowing the other

only televised college basketball games used to come from Pauley Pavilion and start at midnight eastern time. J.P. Morgan, then the athletic director at UCLA, controlled the most important commodity at the time—the UCLA "amateur" basketball team, the Bruins.

The greatest change, of course, came when a fledgling cable network saw the pot of

plosion, it strikes me that the one thing that has remained constant is the treatment of college players. They receive nothing other than room, tuition, and three hot meals a day.

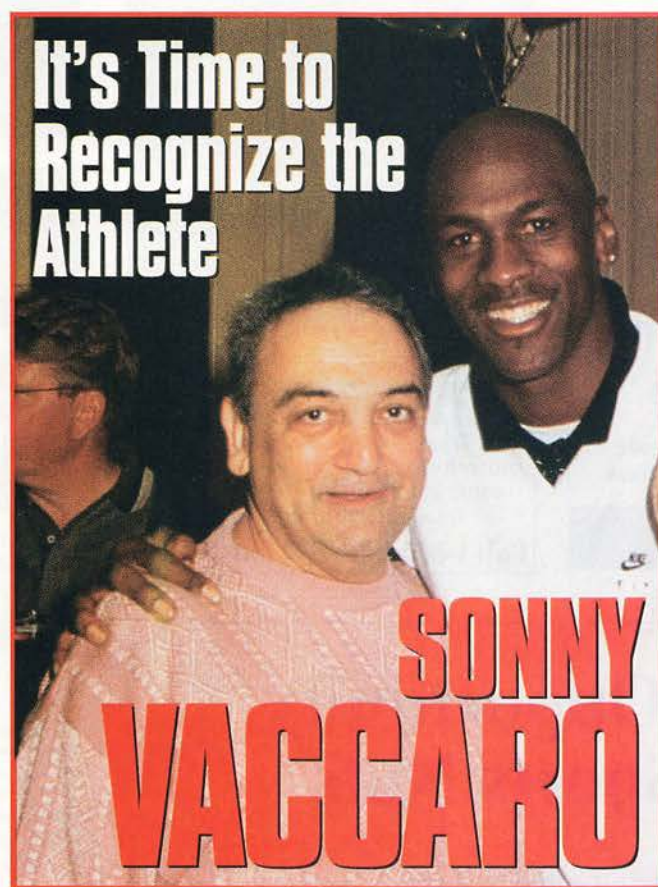
All the academicians claim this is enough. They stand on their soapboxes and say this is true amateurism. This might have been true in a different era, but not today. Coaches are getting paid more from shoe companies than from their primary employer—the university—and now the universities themselves are making their own deals with various athletic suppliers for millions of dollars. How can anyone truthfully say that there should not be a trickle-down effect?

And how can anyone be honest and say these kids are getting a fair shake? When you watch the NCAA final this year, you will see more licensed products being sold on the bodies of these amateur athletes than in the pits of the Indianapolis 500. The only difference is that the driver of an Indy car gets the spoils. The NCAA athlete doesn't, and this, ladies and gentlemen, is wrong. Wrong morally and wrong economically. Even the minimum wage earner gets something back.

True amateurism is a luxury for those who can afford to participate in sports as an avocation. Whether people want to admit it or not, the basic fact is that most of today's athletes, including the high profile ones, are from a lesser economic background. That forces them to focus almost exclusively on their athletic futures in order to better themselves and their families financially. When these youngsters see all the people around them profiting because of their physical skills, it makes them wonder.

I'm not advocating a sit-down or a walk-out. But if and when the day comes that players don't line up for the opening tip-off of an NCAA Championship game or the kickoff for the eventual national championship football playoff, don't be surprised, and, more importantly, don't be mad at them. It's time they had a voice.

If I had to do it all over again, the one change I would make in my life is that I would have fought harder and louder for the equal rights of all the people who play the game. **CS**



sports to sort of pass me by, I hitched my saddle to basketball and have been associated with it intimately for the last 30 years. I have watched the evolution of the game itself, from the various rule changes to the emergence of coaches as media stars and various commissioners, leagues and the network chiefs themselves as television celebrities. Shoe companies, apparel makers, soft drink companies and various breakfast food makers clung onto the shirttails of the athlete to the tune of billions of dollars. Ultimately, I believe this is all well and good, because the world revolves around one basic theory—create a demand, sell the product and everyone makes money.

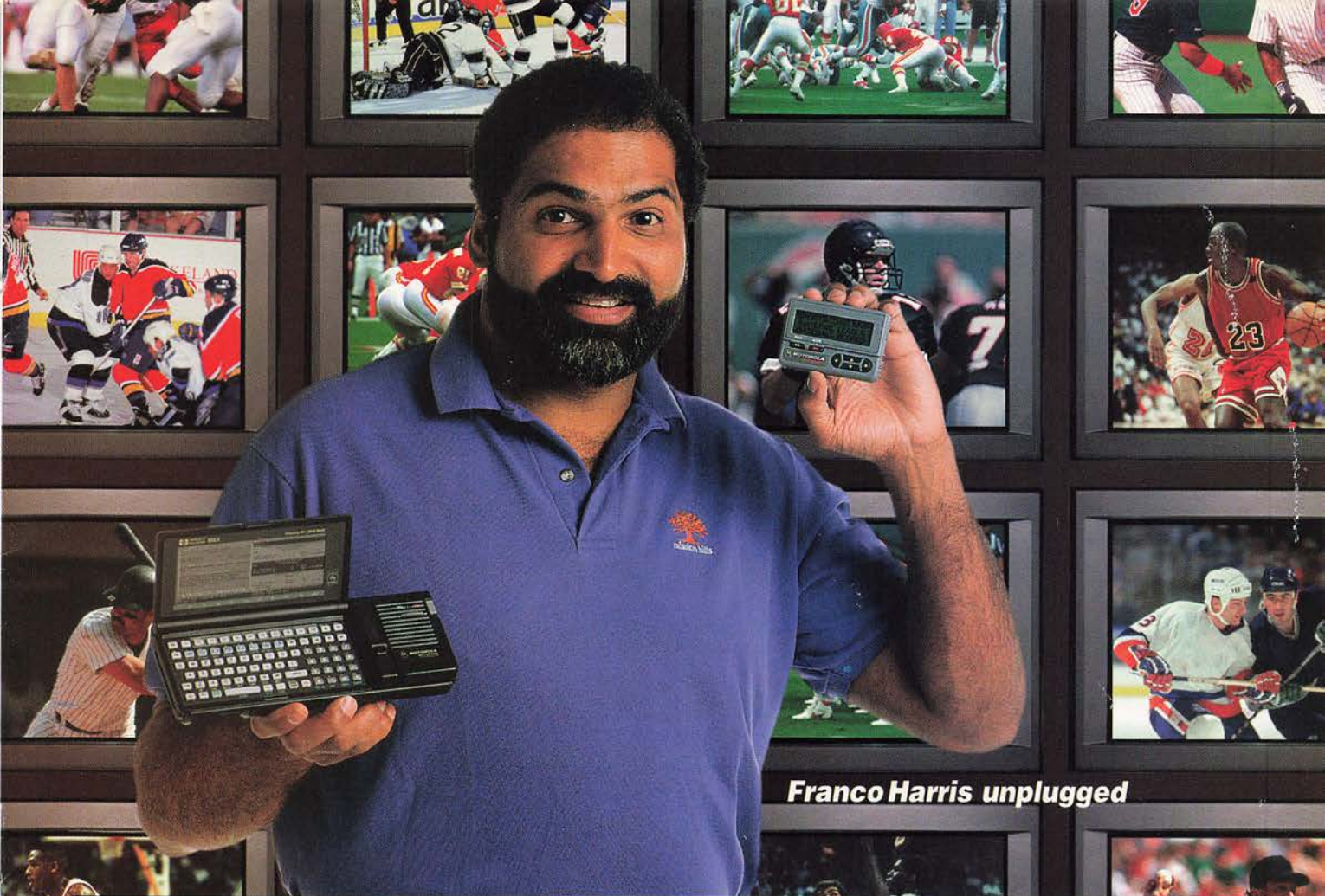
I can remember when the

gold at the end of the rainbow. Bill Grimes, then-president of ESPN, said to his buddies at the young network, "Let's put basketball games on every night of the week, even if it is at 3 a.m. West Coast time from Pocatello, Idaho and on tape delay." In other words, ESPN supplied the product, and the demand was quick to follow.

The resulting popularity explosion caught the eyes of the major networks, which suddenly wanted a piece of this hot little sport. In 1991, when CBS guaranteed the \$1 billion dollar-plus contract to the NCAA for the right to the tournament and other games, the roof blew off the building.

While I have witnessed and been a part of this popularity ex-





**Franco Harris unplugged**

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